MILEY AIN'T DIGGING TAYLOR'S 'BAD BLOOD'

CYRUS THINKS SWIFT IS TOO VIOLENCE-OBSESSED. PAGE 18

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Monday, August 10, 2015 **www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly**

Battle ready

Eagles training camp. Playing football is often compared to warfare. Sunday at open practice, the Eagles and members of the U.S. military showed that both groups give each other strength and hope. PAGE 02

Josh Huff made sure he shook every soldier, airman and sailor's hand Sunday at the Linc. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Study suggests UberX is a lifesaver

PAGE 06

'Ricki' gives a new girl to Rick Springfield

PAGE 19

How to start looking forward to Mondays

PAGE 26

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Eagles, Armed Forces inspire one another

Warriors. The Eagles proudly practiced in front of members of several branches of the military Sunday.

Eagles players delight fans during the last open practice at Lincoln Financial Field on Sunday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

When football players say they "go to war" together, they aren't comparing themselves to soldiers. They are using the sacrifice and strength of the U.S. military as inspiration.

"We really appreciate what our military does," DeMeco Ryans said after practice. "They allow us to play this game and be free ... We are very thankful to them for their support."

And it turns out, the soldiers invited to watch the Eagles practice at Lincoln Financial Field from the sideline Sunday were inspired just as much by their favorite players as the players are by service members.

"It's the best day of my life," Tech Sgt. Kristin Bailey said with a smile as the Eagles began practicing kick returns. "I have been a fan for years and this is amazing."

Bailey and a bevy of other service members were greeted on the field by Chip Kelly and several players prior to the second and final Eagles open practice, and they had the look of any other Eagles fan — that "I'm never washing this hand again" look.

"We talk about it all the time while we are working," Senior Master Sgt. Charles Reed said, emphasizing that football is king anywhere Americans gather. "Somebody in our section is a Cowboys fan. He was actually from Texas and we go back and forth all the time."

Senior Airman William J. Paskey III, who serves in the 166th Airlift Wing in New Castle, Delaware, said he and his fellow military personnel follow the Birds online. And just like diehard fans in the Delaware Valley, Paskey is optimistic about the new-look Eagles.

"I think they're going to be pretty productive and successful from what I've been told and I have seen," Paskey said, noting that Kelly's aggressive approach to rebuilding the Eagles roster did not have him worried.

Bailey agreed, but made sure to be cautious when voicing her Eagles optimism.

"I am anxious," she said, "I have been hearing good things but I am ready to see them put it to work."

After their work Sunday, 26 periods of fast-paced Chip Kelly practice, all 90 Eagles players lined up to present military members with their practice-worn jerseys and sign autographs.

"To come out and experience that, a lot of guys haven't experienced our fans," Ryans said.

Quoted

> "We really appreciate what our military does. They allow us to play this game and be free."
>
> DeMeco Ryans

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Pulling up stakes. Amoroso's to leave Philly for New Jersey

Amoroso's / PROVIDED

The Philadelphia company that gives the region's hoagies and cheese steaks their iconic taste has made it official: They are closing their plant in the city and moving to New Jersey.

Amoroso's Baking Company will lay off approximately 200 people beginning Oct. 6 when it closes its bakery on South 55th Street in southwest Philly, according to a mass layoff notice sent to Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry.

The company will open a huge new facility in Bellmawr, New Jersey, and says employees can re-apply for their jobs.

Joe Mignogna, 75, who has worked for Amoroso's for 59 years — he said he's the company's longest-serving employee — said the move will be good for the company.

"We can't put anything else in here," Mignogna said. "It's too small."

Mignogna has made a move with Amoroso's before. He began working at the company's plant at 65th and Haverford.

For Mike Peluso, a production foreman with 41 years on the job who lives in Drexel Hill, the move means higher gas and tolls on his commute. But he says workers who rely on public transit may have a harder time — many shifts at the bakery start at 2 a.m. or 3 a.m.

But the big question: Will the rolls taste the same?

"I don't know," Peluso said. "I haven't tried them yet."

The facility in New Jersey was spurred by a $20 million tax credit in New Jersey, along with a merger of the Ginsburg Bakery of Atlantic City. The new plant will help New Jersey retain 205 jobs, and an additional 140 are expected to be hired. **DAN KELLEY**

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Did You Know?

Dram Shop laws hold servers of alcoholic beverages legally responsible for harm that visibly intoxicated patrons cause to others. State liquor liability laws can apply not only to bars, liquor stores and restaurants, but also to social clubs and private events where liquor is served. The laws also include selling liquor without a license, selling liquor after hours and selling liquor to minors.

If a person is served alcoholic beverages while visibly intoxicated, and then gets into an accident injuring someone while driving drunk, the owner of the serving establishment can be held responsible in addition to the drunk driver.

Dram Shop lawsuits aren't limited to auto accidents — if a bar serves a visibly intoxicated person who then starts a fistfight and seriously injures another patron, that patron could sue the bar under the dram shop law.

In order to successfully sue under the dram shop law, you must be able to prove:

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Crime

Pa. magistrate charged with indecent assault

A Pennsylvania magistrate judge has been charged with indecent assault after a woman who had been a witness in his court told police that he had visited her apartment and groped her.

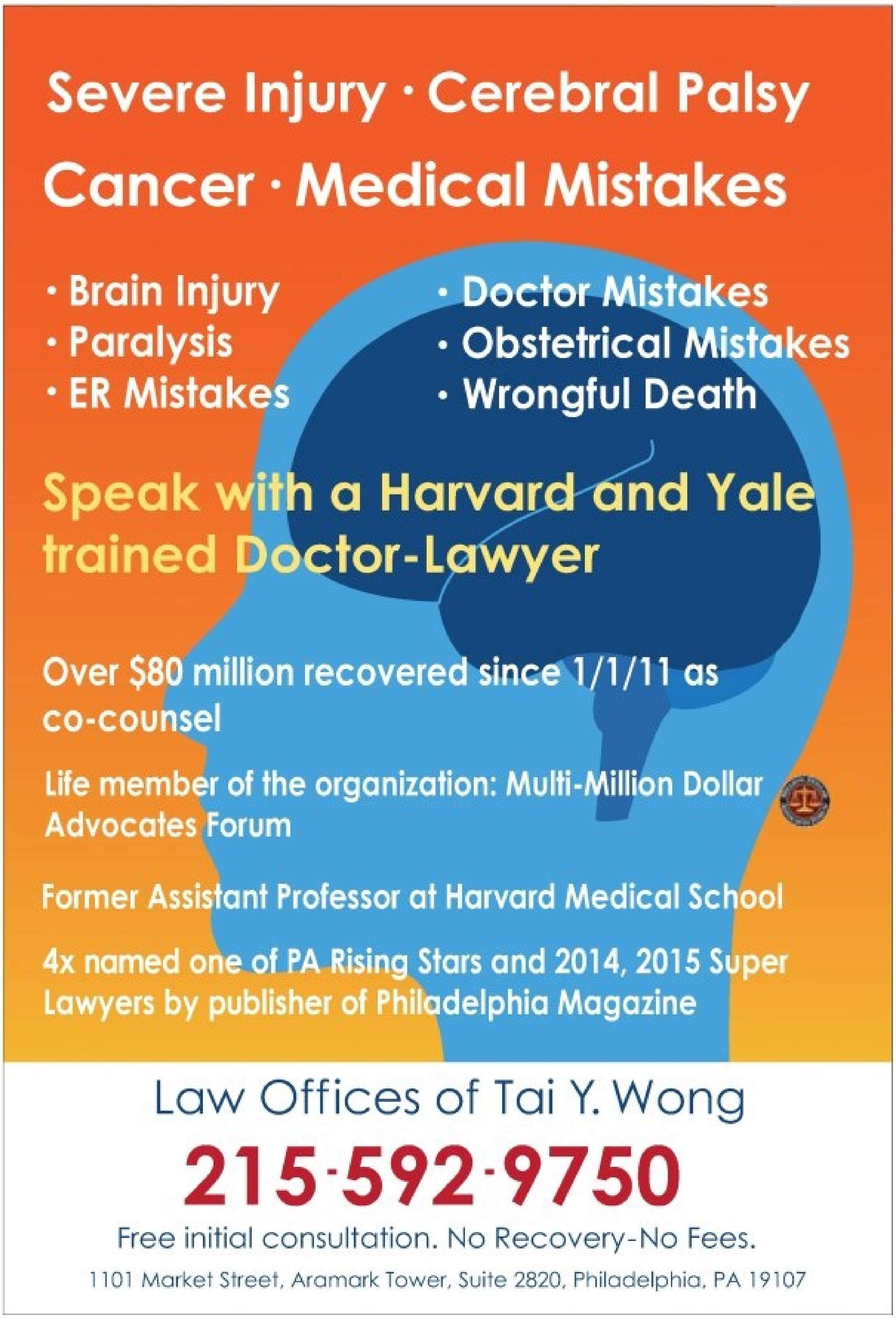
The 31-year-old woman told Pennsylvania State Police that Magisterial District Judge Jeff Joy, 50, of New Freedom, visited her twice after she appeared in his court.

After the court appearance, the woman told police that Joy visited her twice — the first time because she had said that a neighbor was abusing a child, and the second time to buy some of her artwork. During that second visit, Joy asked the woman to model a pair of stockings that she wore in a self-portrait. She said she agreed because her boyfriend — who was in jail at the time on probation violations — still had business before Joy's court.

During that visit, the victim says, he groped her.

Police say that during the investigation, a 24-year-old woman who was also a defendant in Joy's court told police that Joy had visited her apartment and offered to take her to dinner.

The York Daily Record reports that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had reassigned criminal cases before Joy to other judges in April. **DAN KELLEY**



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Pope Francis speaks at the Vatican. / GETTY IMAGES

Pope to use Lincoln's Gettysburg lectern

Podium. Fourscore and seven years ago ... there might be some symbolism here.

When Pope Francis visits Independence Mall in September, he'll use the same lectern from which President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address.

The so-called Gettysburg Lectern is owned by a private collector but has been on loan since 2013 to the Union League, where Robert J. Ciaruffoli, president of the World Meeting of Families, is a member.

"Its simple beauty and humble role in one of American history's most important moments reflect, in many ways, Pope Francis' own worldview," Ciaruffoli said in a statement.

Lincoln used the podium to deliver what many consider the president's greatest speech, which clocked in at just 247 words. It began with a famous math problem — "Fourscore and seven years ago" — but ended with a stunning recitation of American values, that "this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

He delivered the speech about four months after the July 1863 battle, which many historians see as the point at which the Union was able to turn the tide against the Confederacy.

The lectern itself has been housed since 2013 in a case at the Union League, a private club that traces its roots to the Civil War-era Republican Party.

Kira Foley-Tuzman, a spokeswoman for the club, said it is believed that the lectern was used only a few times after Lincoln spoke from it.

It was last used in 2013 when U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito delivered a speech from it to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battle.

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NEWS | L+I

Future Built on Safety and Accessibility

Department of Licenses and Inspections invests in technology and enforcement to increase compliance and ensure safety

The Department of Licenses and Inspections (L+I) has recently introduced essential technological enhancements that will increase its transparency and improve the public's ability to access information and utilize essential services. All of these improvements support the Department's unwavering mission of being a partner in building safety.

Customer Experience Improvements; and Safety Enhancements

The recent launch of L+I's new website (phila.gov/LI) is a key customer experience enhancement. The new website, which provides the public with complete access to L+I building history, illustrates the City's unprecedented commitment to increased transparency and accountability. The website also allows residents to report potential problems and safety hazards directly to L+I through the City's 311 system – highlighting the importance for residents to serve as additional eyes and ears across the City. The new website also includes:

- Licensed contractor search
- Up-to-date zoning and board meeting calendar
- Interactive maps which illustrates projects, permits and violations in your community
- Searchable property history and construction permit information
- Real time site inspection and service requests via 311

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To protect your family and investment, when it comes to home improvement, ask yourself:
1) Do I need a permit?
2) Do I need a licensed contractor?
3) Is my contractor insured?

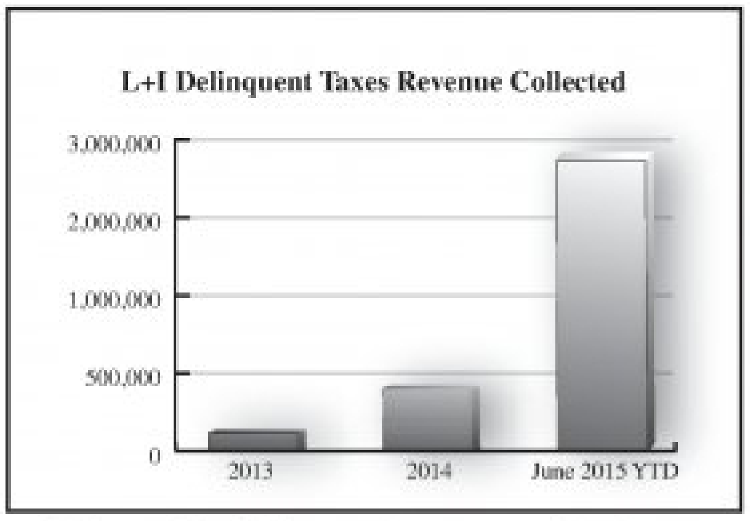
L+I has introduced an all-in-one land and resource management system, Project eCLIPSE (Electronic Commercial Licensing, Inspection & Permit Services Enterprise) that will make L+I more efficient and customer friendly. This will help improve public safety by increasing permit and licensing compliance as well as advance L+ I's ability to oversee and enforce compliance with the City's building codes.

This new easy-to-use portal allows for more swift management of customer license and permitting needs, resulting in improved public safety and overall efficiency. Specifically, by providing needed technical support and convenience, eCLIPSE will increase property owner accountability, reduce the number of vacant and blighted properties, and encourage safe development and property maintenance.

> **"This program revolutionizes the way L+I does business by providing its customers with access to timely and action able information at work, home, and on the go."**
>
> *- L+I Commissioner Carlton Williams*

Project eCLIPSE went live on January 5, 2015 with the ability to electronically interface with the Revenue Department's tax system. By introducing a new automated process, landlords will be checked for property tax compliance prior to license renewal.

Through this process L+I has been able to steadily increase the amount of tax revenue since 2013. As a result, in just six months, Project eCLIPSE has identified many non-tax compliant license applicants. Over $2.8 million, an all time annual high, has been collected as of June 30, 2015.



Building off of this year's successful Phase One launch, the next phases of Project eCLIPSE – Trade Licenses, Permitting and Inspections, Code Enforcement, and ePlans – are all anticipated to roll out in 2016. ePlan (or electronic plan review), when fully implemented, will allow for the single online submission of plans for review and approval by multiple City departments.

- Phase 1 – Business Licensing – Launched January, 2015
- Phase 2 – Contractor Licensing – Fall of 2015
- Phase 3 – ePlan, Permits and Inspections – Winter of 2015
- Phase 4 – Code Enforcement – Spring of 2016

L+I's new website (phila.gov/li) along with the new LMS - Project eClipse reveal a Department evolving to better serve its customers through ease of use and efficiency. The new systems has the type of interactivity and responsiveness that we want to see in our government, including online permit and license applications and the option to pay by credit card or through automatic billing. The system demonstrates a marked change in L+I's external capabilities by allowing business owners, developers, and residents to interact with the Department from their home or work computers. Placing our permitting, licensing, and plan review online, and making this information available to the public 24/7, we increase our accessibility and responsiveness. This 24/7 accessibility and ability to do business with the Department from anywhere makes the City of Philadelphia a place of choice for developers and business owners.

To help L+I better serve you and shape a safer City, take an online survey at www.phila.gov/LI.

Collected $10K

Craigslist scammer rented out the same apartment four times

An alleged Craigslist scammer rented the same West Oak Lane apartment four times, and police say he walked away with $10,500.

Police are looking for Harry Moore, who they say showed a property on the 8000 block of N. Fayette Street once in March, twice in May and again on Aug. 5.

Moore allegedly requested a deposit for the property, but when the move-in date arrived, he devised various excuses for why it was not available.

He never gave any money back, though he has set up meetings to do so and then failed to appear. **DAN KELLEY**

UberX might save lives: Study

Way to go. Temple's Fox School of Business studied the controversial program.

Uber / BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Ride share service uberX isn't just getting scrutiny from local regulators. Researchers at Temple's Fox School of Business say the controversial service might even save lives.

In their paper "Show Me the Way to Go Home: An Empirical Investigation of Ride Sharing and Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Homicide," scholars Brad N. Greenwood and Sunil Wattal report that in California, "the entrance of uberX result[ed] in a 3.6 percent - 5.6 percent decrease in the rate of motor vehicle homicides per quarter in the state of California."

In other words, uberX has a positive impact on reducing drunk driving.

Quoted

> "The entrance of uberX result[ed] in a ... decrease in the rate of motor vehicle homicides per quarter in the state of California."
> Temple University study

The study goes on to say that traditional — and in Philly, legal — Uber services do not have the same impact on DUIs. There's something special about the uberX service itself.

"While the entry of uberX strongly and negatively affects the number of motor vehicle homicides," the report says, "limited evidence exists to support previous claims that this occurs with the Uber black car service as well."

Despite the PPA and even the Philadelphia Police Department performing sting operations to thwart uberX's unauthorized expansion into the Philly market, uberX celebrated more than 1 million rides back in April. Since that time, uberX has found itself fighting authorities in court over whether ride sharing violates local regulations on taxicab and like services.

Every time thus far, the courts have sided with authorities.

Local regulators even say that some taxi drivers themselves have started participating in uberX.

UberX, the ride sharing app's low-cost option, essentially empowers everyday people with cars to act as de facto cab drivers, picking up users and dropping them off via Uber's app. Local authorities say that if someone wants to operate as would a taxi driver, then that person needs to be regulated like one, too.

The PPA's taxicab and limousine division reports that it has "identified several PPA certified drivers providing illegal service" using uberX. "We have impounded 60 vehicles thus far for providing this type of service," regulators warned. "Don't think it can't happen to you."

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Summer scene. People relax at Spruce Street Harbor Park in Philly

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Philadelphians and tourists alike flocked to Spruce Street Harbor Park yesterday to enjoy a warm summer Sunday.

While the weather was cloudy, the enjoyment outlook was spectacular.

Many people lazed the afternoon away in hammocks hung from trees while kids played giant versions of Jenga, Connect Four and chess.

Kids and parents splashed in the fountains with glee while more adult diversions were to be had at the gourmet food stands down by the water and the floating beer garden. **METRO**

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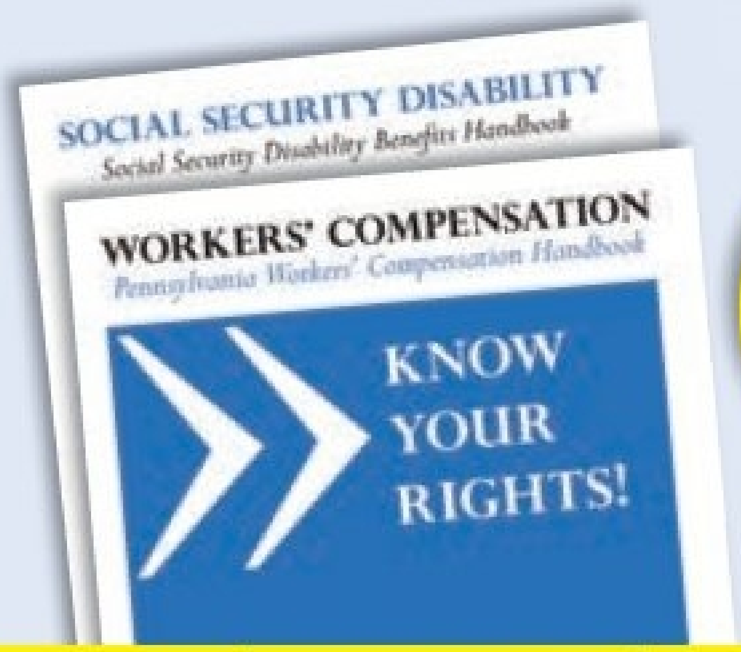
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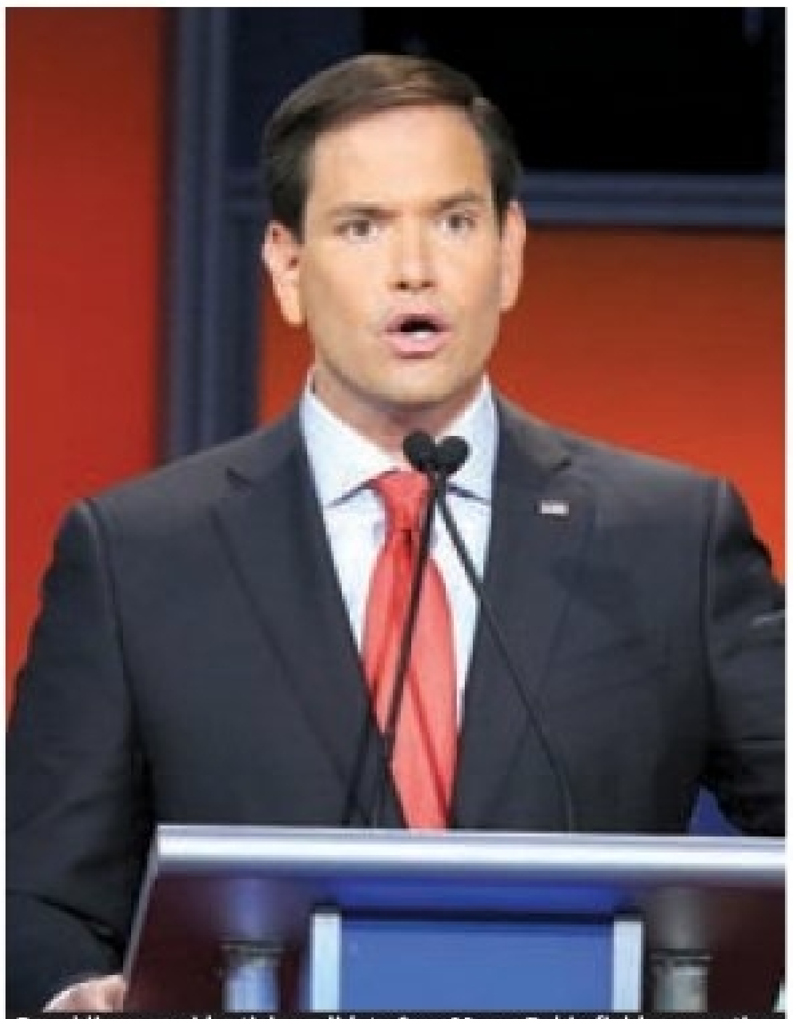


Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio fields a question during the first Republican presidential debate. / GETTY IMAGES

Rubio defends his stance on abortion

Abortion. For Rubio, taking a bold stance against exceptions could hurt his standing with women.

Florida Senator Marco Rubio on Sunday defended his stance against abortion without exceptions for rape or when a mother's life was in danger that he was asked about during a debate among Republican presidential candidates on Thursday.

"I personally and deeply believe that all human life is worthy of the protection of our laws. I do. And I believe that irrespective of the conditions by which that life was conceived, or anything else, and for me to be consistent on that belief," Rubio said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

During Thursday night's debate, Rubio said he never advocated for any exceptions on abortion, including when conception occurs following rape or incest or when the mother's life is in danger.

However, Rubio supported such exceptions when he co-sponsored the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act in 2013, which aimed to ban late-stage abortions.

On Sunday, Rubio denied any inconsistency. He said that while he does not support such exceptions, he would not rule them out if the overall result is fewer abortions.

"I recognize that in order to have consensus on laws that limit the number of abortions, a lot of people want to see those exceptions," he said on NBC.

Rubio said he recognized that women have the right to make decisions about their own bodies, but that clashes with "the right of a human being to live."

"I don't say it's easy," Rubio said. "But when asked to make a decision between two very hard circumstances, I personally reached the decision, if I'm going to err, I'm going to err on the side of life."

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee have also said they do not support abortion in any cases. **REUTERS**

Auto

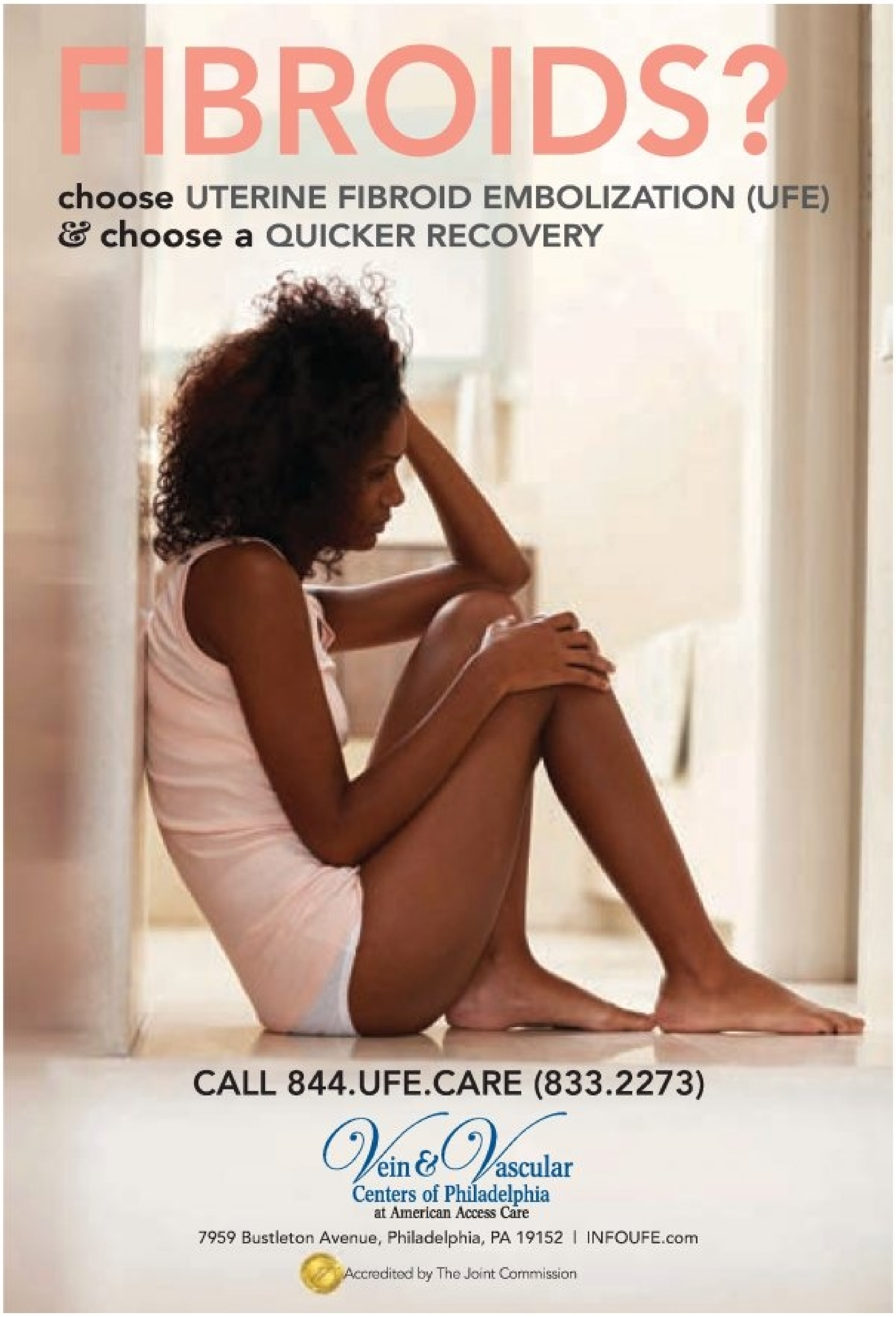
Tesla burns cash, loses more than $4,000 on every car sold

It's crunch time for Tesla Motors.

The Silicon Valley automaker is losing more than $4,000 on every Model S electric sedan it sells, using its reckoning of operating losses, and it burned $359 million in cash last quarter in a bull market for luxury vehicles. The company on Wednesday cut its production targets for this year and next. Chief Executive Elon Musk said he's considering options to raise more capital, and didn't rule out selling more stock.

Musk has taken investors on a thrill ride since taking Tesla public in 2010. Now he's given himself a deadline, promising that by the first quarter of 2016 Tesla will be making enough money to fund a jump from making one expensive, low-volume car to mass producing multiple models, and expanding a venture to manufacture electric power storage systems.

Tesla's shares fell almost 9 percent on Thursday and slipped another 2 percent on Friday as investors and analysts weighed the risks of Musk's ambitious plans for expanding Tesla's auto and energy storage businesses. Tesla had just $1.15 billion on hand as of June 30, down from $2.67 billion a year earlier. **REUTERS**



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Israeli troops retaliate. Palestinian man shot and killed in West Bank

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian man who stabbed an Israeli man at a petrol station in the occupied West Bank on Sunday along a main highway near Jerusalem, police said.

The Israeli 26-year-old civilian was lightly hurt and taken to hospital, police spokeswoman Luba Samri said, adding that the Palestinian attacker had come from a village near highway 443, one of two major routes that connect Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

With peace talks stalled since April 2014, grassroots violence has simmered in the West Bank and adjacent East Jerusalem, among the territories Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war and where Palestinians seek statehood. **REUTERS**

West Africa

Gunmen kill 10 in Mali village

Gunmen killed 10 civilians in an attack on the village of Gaberi in northern Mali, an army spokesman said on Sunday, a day after a deadly siege by suspected Islamist gunmen at a hotel northeast of the capital.

The attacks are the latest violence in the West African country, where the United Nations has brokered a tenuous peace between Tuareg separatists and the government. Islamists linked to al Qaeda and new militant groups now appear to be mounting a campaign against the U.N. mission and Mali's military. **REUTERS**

US sends 6 jets, 300 personnel to Turkey base in the Islamic State fight

Fears. Turkey has faced increasing insecurity along its 560-mile border with Syria.

F-16 Fighting Falcon aircrafts from Italy's Aviano Air Base / GETTY IMAGES

The United States sent six F-16 jets and about 300 personnel to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey on Sunday, the U.S. military said, after Ankara agreed last month to allow American planes to launch air strikes against Islamic State militants from there.

The Pentagon said in a statement that the "small detachment" is from the 31st Fighter Wing based at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Support equipment was also sent but no details were provided.

"The United States and Turkey, as members of the 60-plus nation coalition, are committed to the fight against ISIL in the pursuit of peace and stability in the region," the statement said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

The ability to fly manned bombing raids out of Incirlik, a major base used by both U.S. and Turkish forces, against targets in nearby Syria could be a big advantage. Such flights have had to fly mainly from the Gulf.

Turkey's decision last month to allow use of the base follows longtime reluctance by Ankara to become engaged in the fight against Islamist militants. **REUTERS**

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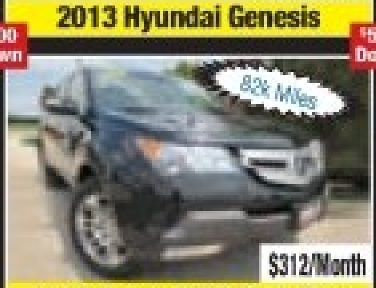

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Five things you need to know

1

Trump on blood remark: No apology necessary, 'I cherish women'

Embattled Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump hit back at critics who say he went too far with caustic comments about a news anchor, insisting no apology was necessary and defending his relations with women.

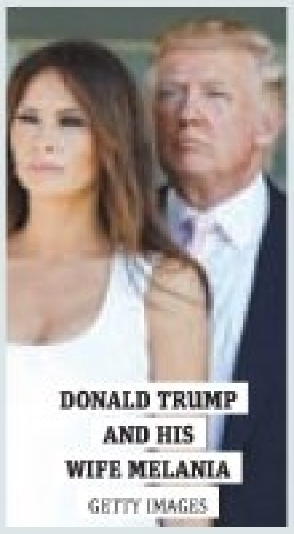
Trump is under fire for criticizing Fox anchor Megyn Kelly during and after a Republican debate on Thursday. Asked about Kelly in a CNN interview on Friday, Trump said: "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever."

The real estate mogul and television personality appeared on Sunday news shows to rebut the outrage triggered by his off-the-cuff talk.

"I've had such an amazing relationship with women in business. They are amazing executives. They are killers. They are phenomenal," Trump said on ABC's "This Week."

Asked if he thought he had gone too far, Trump said, "No, not at all."

Trump told CNN he had "great relationships" with women and had hired thousands, including many top-level employees, adding, "I cherish women." **REUTERS**


DONALD TRUMP AND HIS WIFE MELANIA
GETTY IMAGES

2

Five children, three adults killed in Texas

Eight people, five of them children, were killed at a house in Houston and a suspect in the shooting surrendered to police after an hourlong standoff, police officials said.

Sheriff deputies went to the home on a welfare check about 9 p.m. Saturday, police officials said. They called for backup after learning there was a man inside the home wanted for aggravated assault, KHOU TV reported.

When deputies spotted the body of child through a window, they tried to force their way inside but had to pull back when the suspect shot at them. After a standoff with authorities, the suspect surrendered. **REUTERS**

3

Questions abound in police shooting death of black Texas teen

Texas police on Sunday were trying to figure out what prompted a black teenager to drive his car into a car dealership, and why a white police officer still in training fatally shot the unarmed 19-year-old four times.

Christian Taylor became the latest unarmed black man to die at the hands of a white police officer after officials said he was seen on security surveillance tape vandalizing cars at an auto dealership in Arlington.

Taylor was shot four times by Arlington police officer Brad Miller, 49, who was still undergoing training with the department. **REUTERS**

4

About 150 homes evacuated in Ariz. wildfire

A raging fire in a wildlife refuge in northwestern Arizona near the California border is forcing the evacuation of about 150 homes, fire officials said.

Authorities ordered the mandatory evacuations from homes in the rural area after the wildfire sparked on Saturday afternoon grew to 2,000 acres in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, said Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman Dolores Garcia.

The American Red Cross had set up a shelter for displaced residents.

"This is a major one and we're aggressively trying to fight it," Garcia said of the fast-moving fire. **REUTERS**

5

Video gamers win millions of dollars in championship

Teams of video gamers playing characters ranging from wizards to monsters exchanged virtual punches, fireballs and lightning strikes over the past six days, battling at the main event of the Dota 2 International 2015 tournament in Seattle.

And by the end of the finals, five players, including a 16-year-old, became more than a million dollars richer.

Now in its fifth year and playing to a sold-out crowd in the 17,000-seat Key Arena, the International has grown every year in size, popularity and possible winnings for players. **REUTERS**

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OMG. Future smartphone screens will repair themselves when cracked or damaged

They've got it cracked! Scientists have developed a "self-healing" material to fix broken smartphone screens that could be ready within the next three years. Duncan Wass and his team at the University of Bristol patented a carbon-based healing agent that exudes a liquid to fill in the gap when a crack appears on a surface. Wass' novel invention could also be used to "self repair" damaged aeroplane wings in midflight. Metro spoke to Wass about his product.

A "self-healing" carbon material sounds very sci-fi. Where did you get the idea for it?
The human body. For example, if we cut our finger, blood forms a scab and our wound heals; our body repairs this damage by itself. We thought it should be possible to have man-made materials that do the same thing. We have been focusing on what scientists call "carbon fiber re-enforced composite" materials.

How does it actually work?
We incorporate tiny capsules that contain a liquid healing agent into the material we want to self-heal. We also add a chemical called a catalyst, which triggers the hardening of the liquid healing agent. If the material gets damaged with a crack, it ruptures the tiny capsules; the liquid healing agent leaks out and comes into contact with the catalyst. This causes the healing agent to harden.

What's this material made of?
Carbon fibers and a resin that glues the fibers together. Our healing agent, after it has been hardened, is exactly the same as glue material. The microcapsules themselves have a hard outer shell and a liquid interior. But they are so small that to the human eye they just look like white powder.

Would you describe this material as a revolution?
If our technology gets adopted then it could be. At present, materials are overengineered to withstand any likely damage — this uses more material than we actually need, adding to cost and weight. Imagine if humans had evolved to withstand any damage — we would need skin as thick as a rhinoceros. If a material can heal itself it can be lighter and thinner, so our cars and planes can go faster and use less fuel. And that could revolutionize how we use materials.

DMITRY BELYAEV,
METRO WORLD NEWS

omg!

Visit us online at **Metro.us/omg** for more interviews.

Question

What are its exclusive applications?

It could self-heal a smartphone screen, although we are also interested in carbon fiber materials that are used in airplanes. Cracked screens are a big problem but there's still more to do in that area. As you might imagine, getting a material which still has good transparency when repaired is very challenging.

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Cracked smartphone screen / FLICKR / CREATIVE COMMONS

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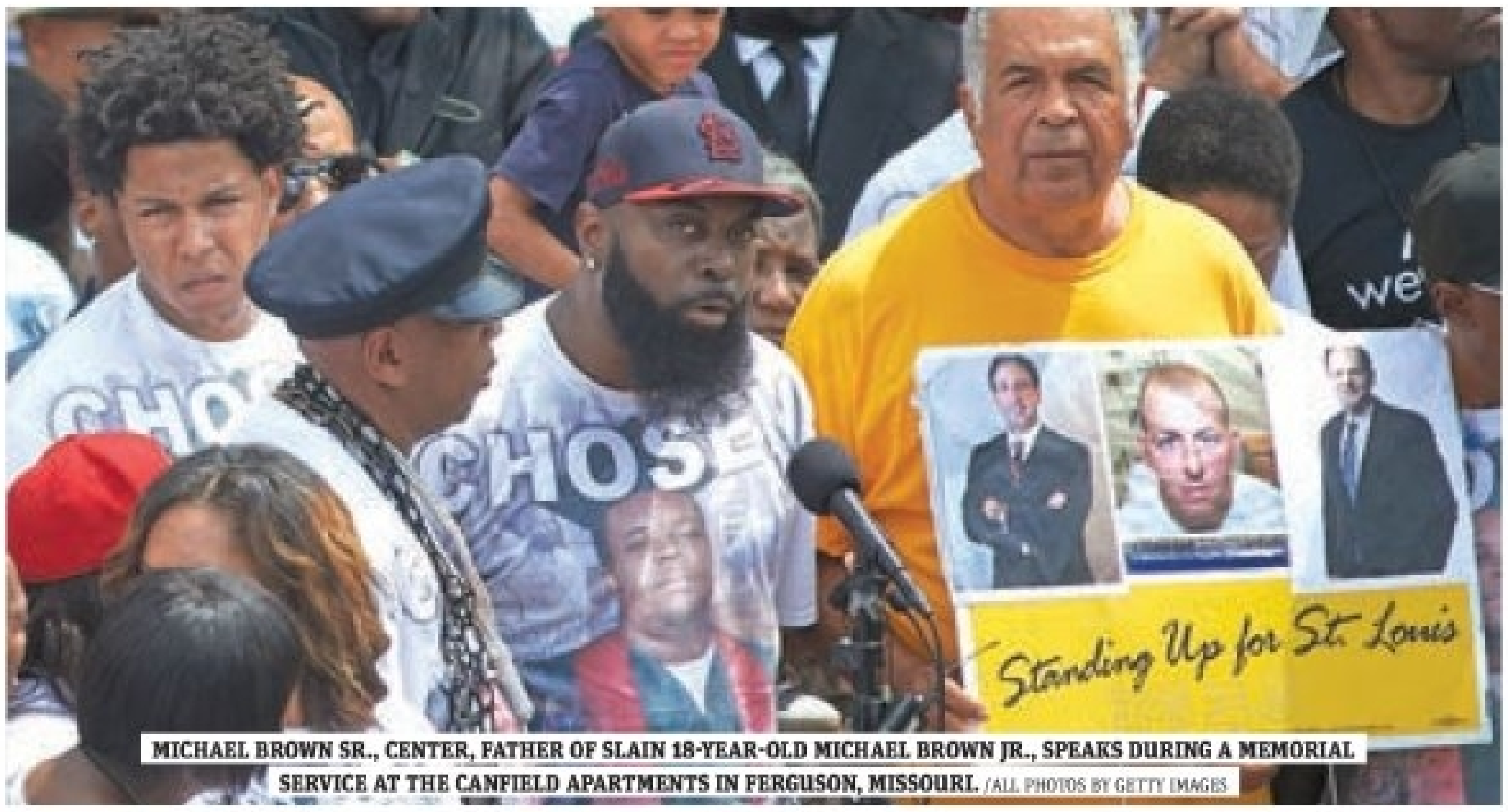
Hundreds mark anniversary of Michael Brown shooting

Hundreds of people marched, prayed and held moments of silence in Ferguson, Missouri, on Sunday to mark the anniversary of the shooting death of an unarmed black teenager by a white police officer a year ago. The largely peaceful events on the anniversary weekend were marred when shots rang out while about 1,000 people approached a church, but it was not known if the incident was related to the rally. Police said one person was wounded when several shots were fired, possibly from a moving car, near the route. **REUTERS**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MICHAEL BROWN SR., CENTER, FATHER OF SLAIN 18-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL BROWN JR., SPEAKS DURING A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE CANFIELD APARTMENTS IN FERGUSON, MISSOURI. /ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

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A WOMAN WEARS A "BLACK LIVES MATTER" SHIRT.

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Today, Hailee Steinfeld wants some attention, Azealia Banks is spending wisely, Kelly Osbourne is full of advice, Alec Baldwin is peeved and RuPaul has news for you.

@HaileeSteinfeld: HEY

@AZEALIABANKS: I'm going to subscribe to tidal because of group shared economics and I feel good about giving jay-z my money.

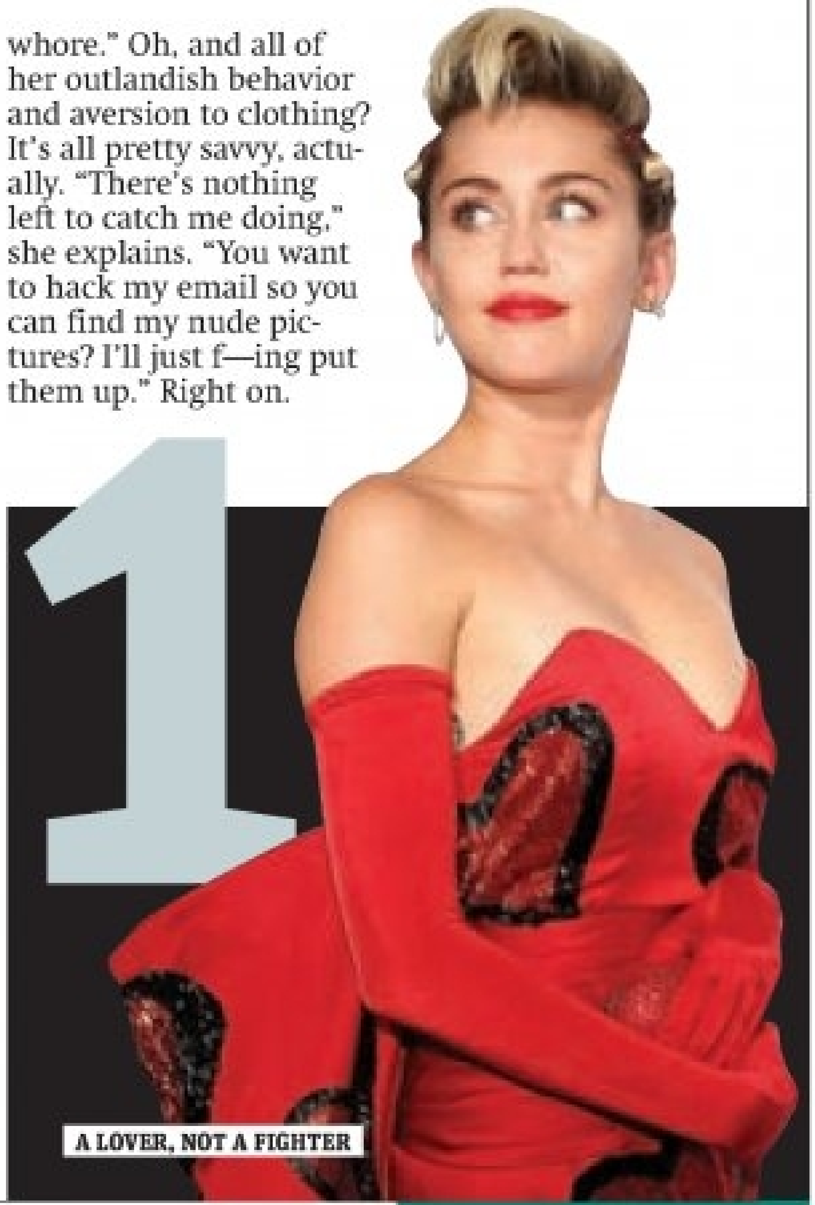
@KellyOsbourne: Throw lavender buds on your fire to clear your home of negativity

@ABFalecbaldwin: OK, spoiler alert, people. Sheesh.

@RuPaul: Oh BTW: Soylent Green is people!

1

Miley Cyrus slams Taylor Swift's 'Bad Blood'



A LOVER, NOT A FIGHTER

Miley Cyrus and I apparently see eye to eye on a lot of things, including Taylor Swift. Well, sort of. While my Swift gripes are more broad and far-reaching, Cyrus is taking issue with one particular move — namely, Swift's much-hyped "Bad Blood" music video. "I don't get the violence revenge thing," she tells Marie Clare. "That's supposed to be a good example? And I'm a bad role model because I'm running around with my titties out? I'm not sure how titties are worse than guns." Ain't that America, right?

Cyrus also has some other insights that are genuinely awesome, like her take on the double standards of show business: "There is so much sexism, ageism, you name it," she says. "Kendrick Lamar sings about LSD and he's cool. I do it and I'm a druggie whore." Oh, and all of her outlandish behavior and aversion to clothing? It's all pretty savvy, actually. "There's nothing left to catch me doing," she explains. "You want to hack my email so you can find my nude pictures? I'll just f—ing put them up." Right on.

Sorry about the peep show, y'all. /ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2

All about Lenny Kravitz's crotch jewelry

While Lenny Kravitz isn't talking about the recently peekaboo pubic piercing the world found out about last week when his pants split on stage in Sweden, the artist who applied it is more than happy to. "The piercing still looks happy, healthy and very sturdy. I was proud to see it alive and kicking," body modification artist Elayne Angel tells Mashable. And she offers some insight into the purpose of the piercing: "He liked the idea of having one that was in proximity to his penis but not on it. He's definitely into aesthetics and how it looks, but this one also had function. It was meant to please women," she explains. "It hits the woman in the clitoris during intercourse." Well, all right, then.

3

Willow Smith's perfect world

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES

In case anyone's interested, 14-year-old singer and budding philosopher Willow Smith has her idea for utopia all worked out, as she tells i-D magazine in an interview. "The whole world would be one big tribe, one big commune. It wouldn't be split up and divided, we wouldn't be fighting nearly as much, we wouldn't be using unnecessary sources of power," she says. "We'd be using free energy, we'd be eating from the trees, we'd be drinking from the natural stream. There wouldn't be traffic and diapers and pollution in our rivers. It would all just be transcending into another dimension." See, you had me, and then you lost me.

Oh, and the secret to Smith's ideal worldview? James Cameron's "Avatar," naturally, which she calls "my life." Because obviously. "The strength that the tribe has to overthrow the Sky People, that's the kind of strength that we need to have," she says.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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4

Robert Downey Jr. cements highest-paid status

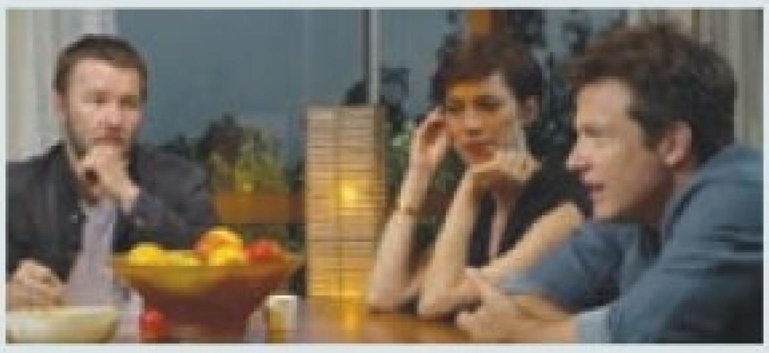
That's a lot of Dr. Peppers.

In case there was any doubt about Robert Downey Jr.'s success, the "Iron Man" and "Avengers" star has topped Forbes' list of highest-paid actors for the third year in a row. And if that weren't enough, Downey's impressive $80 million take between June 2014 and June 2015 is a sweet $30 million ahead of the list's No. 2 earner, Jackie Chan ($50 million). So maybe if Downey is pulling down that kind of coin, he could be a little kinder to indie filmmakers looking for help? Yeah, probably not.

Rounding out the top five are Vin Diesel ($47 million), Bradley Cooper ($41.5 million) and — somehow, mystifyingly — Adam Sandler ($41 million). I'd like to think that after "Pixels," Sandler's spot next year won't be so prominent, but who am I kidding?

Daily video

Talking to the cast of 'The Gift'



This weekend saw the release of the disastrous "Fantastic Four," sure, but there was also a much better movie out: Joel Edgerton's "The Gift," a thriller about a married couple (Jason Bateman and Rebecca Hall) terrorized by the husband's old classmate (Edgerton) in their brand-new home. I sat down and chatted with Edgerton, Bateman and Hall in that very house and tried to finally answer the question, "Why is Jason Bateman so good at playing an a—hole?"

Interview. The rock star and Grammy winner was nervous playing Meryl Streep's boy toy.

Rockin' out with Rick Springfield

Rick Springfield and Meryl Streep tear into some covers in "Ricki and the Flash," now in theaters. / SONY

Rick Springfield had just rung the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange when our phone call began. "I stopped major companies from trading," he says, chuckling at the craziness of it all. Talking to him, it's clear he's not the kind of guy who puts an end to corporate trading. He's modest and self-effacing, friendly and willing to talk openly and honestly about anything, including what has been a bizarre career.

For instance, when Springfield had his biggest song — "Jessie's Girl" — he was in the middle of a two-year stint on "General Hospital." He also wrote an acclaimed memoir, plus, last year, a best-selling novel, "Magnificent Vibration." Right now he's in "Ricki and the Flash," starring opposite no less than Meryl Streep in a film by Jonathan Demme.

He plays Greg, part of an aging, small-time cover band fronted by Streep's Ricki. "He wanted someone to sell the fact that this guy is supposed to be a really good guitar player who never made it," Springfield tells us. "There's a scene that was actually cut about Greg being on the cover of a guitar magazine in the '80s — a shredder magazine. He settled into the fact that he had his shot, but he's happy to still be playing his guitar."

Springfield himself still plays big concerts, and his 18th album is due at year's end. But he really liked the portrayal of those who hadn't had his luck. "There's a sadness to that, but it's also kind of cool. There's a lot of damaged people in that story," he says. "It's what I loved about the movie."

They did play live. "Since we were a cover band, it would have looked odd if it was lip-synched to perfect tracks, like most music in films. [Demme] wanted it rough and ready and real."

Streep herself learned how to play guitar before the shoot. Springfield got to see the Oscar winner nervous, which he says "was very heartening for me, who was nervous to be in a movie with Meryl Streep."

Springfield GETTY IMAGES

Another view

On acting

"Ricki and the Flash" arrives almost concurrently with Springfield's stint as a shady psychiatrist on "True Detective." He hasn't seen it. "I generally don't like to see stuff that I've done," he admits. "A lot of my friends emailed me and said, 'Dude, you creeped me out so bad.'"

Of course, Springfield is a seasoned actor, even if the role that first made him famous didn't come easily. "Soap opera acting is incredibly difficult for me," he confesses. "It became all about line memorization. You just don't have the time to work on the character. It's nothing to do with acting. It's just like picking up a hammer to build a house. It's just something you have to do. There are a lot of actors on soaps who are incredible at it. I always found it very difficult."

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The secret to French beauty

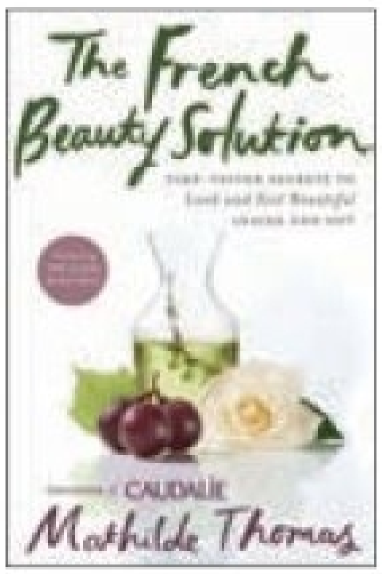
Mathilde Thomas also believes you should indulge in a glass of red wine. / PROVIDED

Skin care. A word to American women: "Stop being so Type A and have fun," says Caudalie's Mathilde Thomas.

We idolize French women: their effortlessly chic style, their I-woke-up-like-this bed head and, not to mention, their glowing, gorgeous skin.

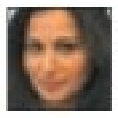
So what are we doing wrong?

"American women put a lot of pressure on themselves. Especially in New York — they're Type A women. They want to check off all the boxes," says Mathilde Thomas, co-founder of natural skin-care brand Caudalie. "You can't do it all; life is tough."



Instead, the beauty expert encourages women to give up the idea of "perfect" and have fun with skin care — even sometimes skipping the luxe solution-in-a-jar for a homemade beauty remedy straight out of the fridge. "Skin care is not a chore," she stresses. "You should enjoy it — use products that not only make you look good but that make you feel good, too."

Thomas distills beauty secrets from her homeland in her new book, "The French Beauty Solution."



TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Checklist

Thomas' summer tips

1 "Use a moisturizer with SPF, because unfortunately, it's the UV that makes you age."

2 "Every night, remove your makeup and clean your skin."

3 "Exfoliate every week."

Antioxidant

Tomato Mask

Anti-wrinkle treatment from 'The French Beauty Solution'

You'll need:
- 1 medium tomato, smashed with a fork
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 teaspoon milk
- 1 teaspoon flour

Directions:
Mix all the ingredients together. Apply to face and leave on for 15 minutes. Rinse off with warm water.

Shop

Invest in serum

"If you can invest in one product, it's a serum," stresses Thomas. "The serum is the thing that penetrates deep in the skin. Everything you put on after is not going to penetrate as much as the first layer."
Caudalie Anti-Wrinkle Defense Serum, $62, Caudalie.com

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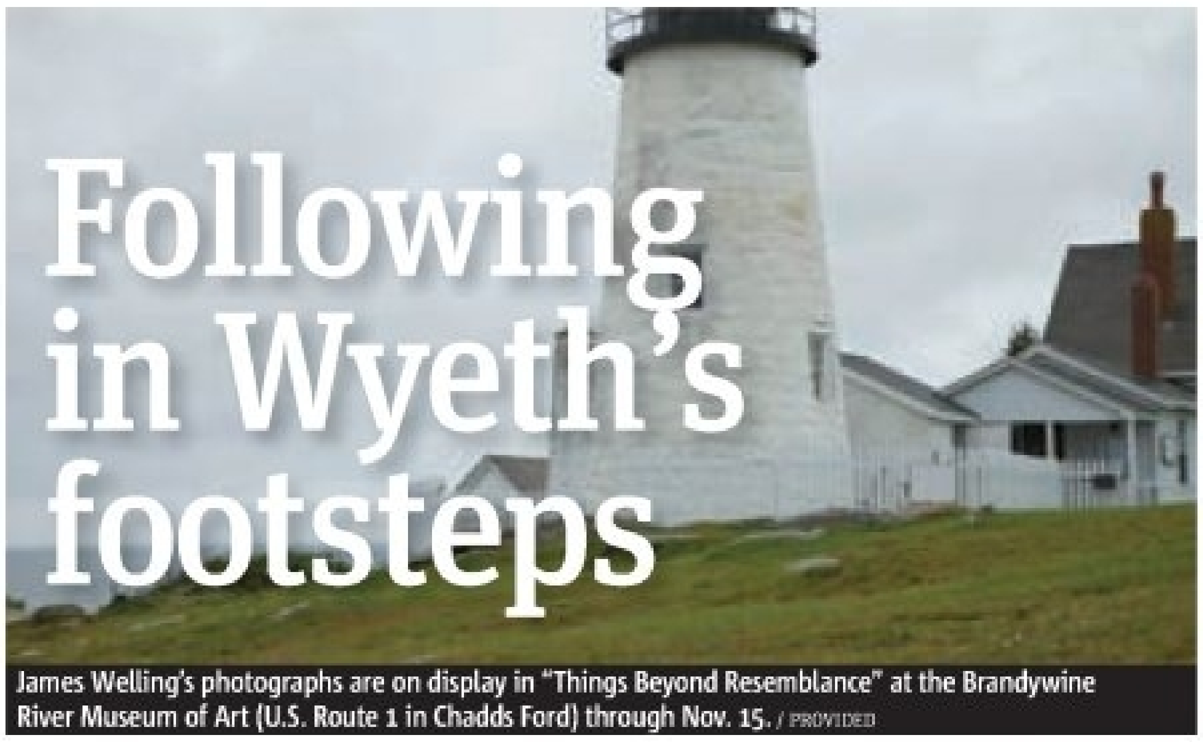
Photography. James Welling drew inspiration from the famous American painter.

Following in Wyeth's footsteps



James Welling's photographs are on display in "Things Beyond Resemblance" at the Brandywine River Museum of Art (U.S. Route 1 in Chadds Ford) through Nov. 15. / PROVIDED

Andrew Wyeth derived a lifetime's worth of inspiration from the landscapes immediately surrounding him: his home and studio in Chadds Ford and his summer home in Cushing, Maine. Having drawn his own inspiration from Wyeth's paintings, photographer James Welling decided to visit the places where Wyeth lived and worked to see if he could discover some of that magic for himself.

"Wyeth was someone who taught me how to see," Welling says. "I just brought my cameras and an open mind."

Welling spent five years visiting the sites he'd come to know from Wyeth's work since childhood, looking to match the perspectives he saw in the original paintings but also widening his lens to find other visual treasures. "Anything was fair game in these journeys," he explains. "I found a lot of things that were interesting on the way up or turning to look 180 degrees from the Wyeth view."

The results are on display at the Brandywine River Museum of Art in "Things Beyond Resemblance: James Welling Photographs," which presents 50 images from Welling's trove of Wyeth-related photos. His goal was not to make a documentary record of the places that Wyeth painted but to take a similarly creative view of the same terrain. Welling reworked the raw digital images through postproduction alterations and manipulations.

The Brandywine is also showing Welling's first site-specific sculptural installation, "Gradients," at several locations on its grounds and campus, including Wyeth's studio. Welling used a technique called gradient mapping on photos of these sites, creating a digital spectrum representing the range of colors to be found there; he then transferred these color maps onto metal plates, which are placed into the landscapes.

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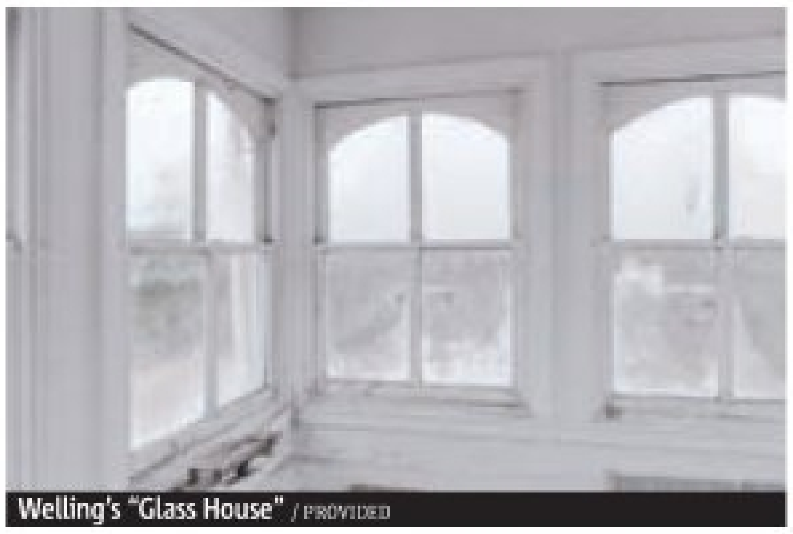

Welling's "Glass House" / PROVIDED

Local connection

Labyrinth

Throughout this process, Welling came to know firsthand the region that Wyeth strove to capture throughout his work. "Wyeth's relationship to Chadds Ford was incredibly detailed and intense," he says. "It's like a labyrinth that he goes into. I feel like I was able to enter that labyrinth a little bit, but nowhere near as deeply as he explored it. He made this imaginary world from these everyday elements. I've begun to see them slightly in that way."

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Pan-seared Redfish with Orange-Olive Relish, Snap Peas and Radishes

Recipe

MARLEY SPOON

We fell in love with the colors and textures of this dish, from the pink hue of sliced radishes and bright green of olives to the crunchy bite of snap peas. Redfish is crisped on a hot skillet and crowned with a subtly sweet and very fresh relish, where Castelvetrano olives provide a delicate saltiness. This is the perfect meal for a hot summer evening. Cook, relax and enjoy!

Cooking time: 30 minutes
Calories: 845 kcal/person
Allergens: none

What we send:
- ½ cup basmati rice (3.6 oz.)
- 1 orange (7-8 oz.)
- Castelvetrano olives (2 oz.)
- 1 scallion (0.5 oz.)
- flat-leaf parsley (0.5 oz.)
- 12 oz. redfish
- 6 oz. snap peas
- 2 oz. radishes

What you need:
- olive oil
- coarse salt
- freshly ground black pepper

Equipment:
- small saucepan
- large nonstick skillet

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Directions:

1 **Cook rice.** Combine rice, ¾ cup water and a pinch of salt in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cook until rice is tender and water is absorbed, 15 minutes. Remove from heat and keep covered until ready to serve.

2 **Prepare orange.** Halve orange. Using a sharp knife, remove peel and pith from half of orange. Chop flesh and transfer to a small bowl.

3 **Make relish.** Pit and chop olives and thinly slice scallions. Finely chop parsley stems and leaves. Combine chopped oranges, olives, scallions, parsley leaves and stems and 2 tablespoons oil and stir to combine, season with salt and pepper.

4 **Slice vegetables.** Thinly slice snap peas and radishes and place in a medium bowl. Squeeze remaining orange half over vegetables, season with salt and pepper and toss to combine.

5 **Cook fish.** Heat 2 teaspoons oil in a large nonstick skillet. Season redfish with salt and pepper and add to skillet, skin side down. Cook fish, pressing gently to flatten until skin is crisp, about 4 minutes. Flip and cook until just cooked through, 1–2 minutes more.

6 **Serve.** Fluff rice and divide between plates. Top with fish and orange-olive relish. Serve with snap peas and radishes. Enjoy!

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No such thing as ‘just a game’

Novel. Christopher Yates’ “Black Chalk” explores the dark side of “friendly competition.”

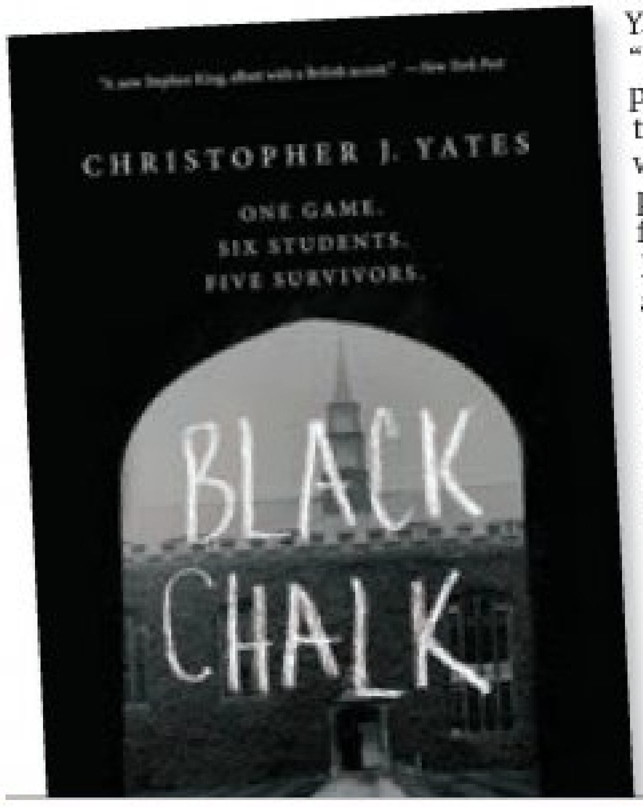
As a puzzle and crossword maker, it’s no surprise Christopher Yates enjoys a good game. But his novel “Black Chalk” takes the idea of friendly competition to a whole new level, implying that life itself is a game. “Why else do you think we call ourselves the human race?” the book asks.

“There’s a quote I like from Gore Vidal: ‘Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little,’” Christopher Yates says. “Some people say it’s a great quote and really expresses something true. Other people are absolutely mystified. They can’t understand the idea of being jealous by someone else’s success.”

Truth and consequences

The book is about six friends studying at Oxford University who make up a game. At first, the consequences of losing a round are silly. But over time, the consequences become life-altering, at times deeply humiliating, and ultimately change the players forever.

“I came up with the idea for the very game with a friend when I was at Oxford,” Yates says. “We never played the game, which is probably fortunate. But to a large degree, writing this book was me imagining what would happen if we did play the game.”



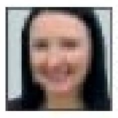
Plot puzzle

The structure of the book jumps between the present day and the college days in 1991. The narrator is a recluse living in the East Village in New York, and at times, the reader doesn’t actually know which one of the characters is narrating the book. Yates uses various other tricks to keep the reader guessing the whole way through.

“I did a lot of those things as a way to entertain myself while I wrote it,” he says. “I think I almost turned the book into some sort of puzzle, even a puzzle for myself, and I had to work out how to make the different pieces work together to make a satisfying structure for the reader.”

Competition cause and effect

Yates says the way a person plays a game says a lot about his or her psyche. “Almost any time competition is involved, it can reveal something about the people who are playing it,” he says. “Almost any game can descend into casting a bad light on human behavior.”



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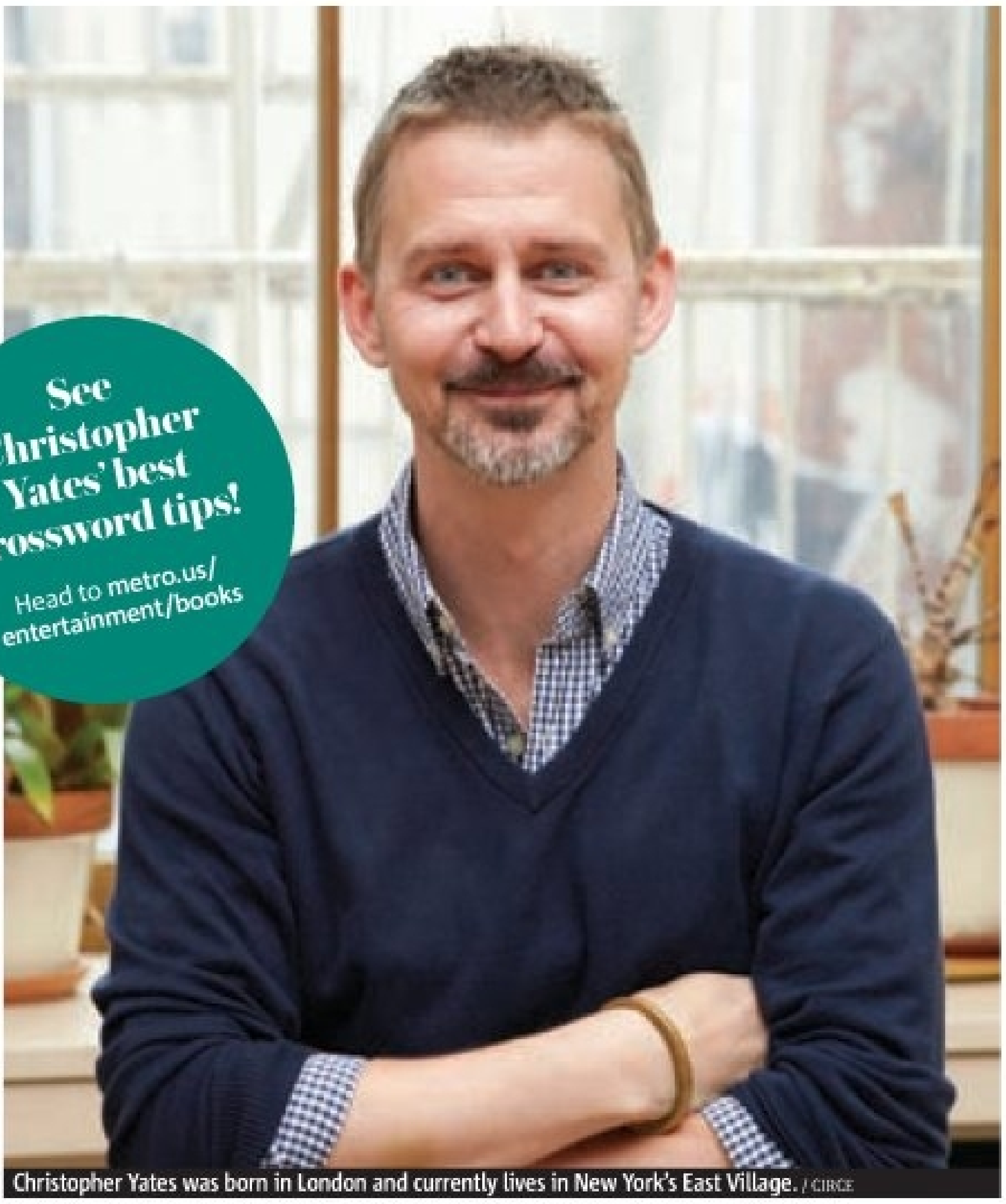

Christopher Yates was born in London and currently lives in New York’s East Village. / CIRCE

See Christopher Yates’ best crossword tips!

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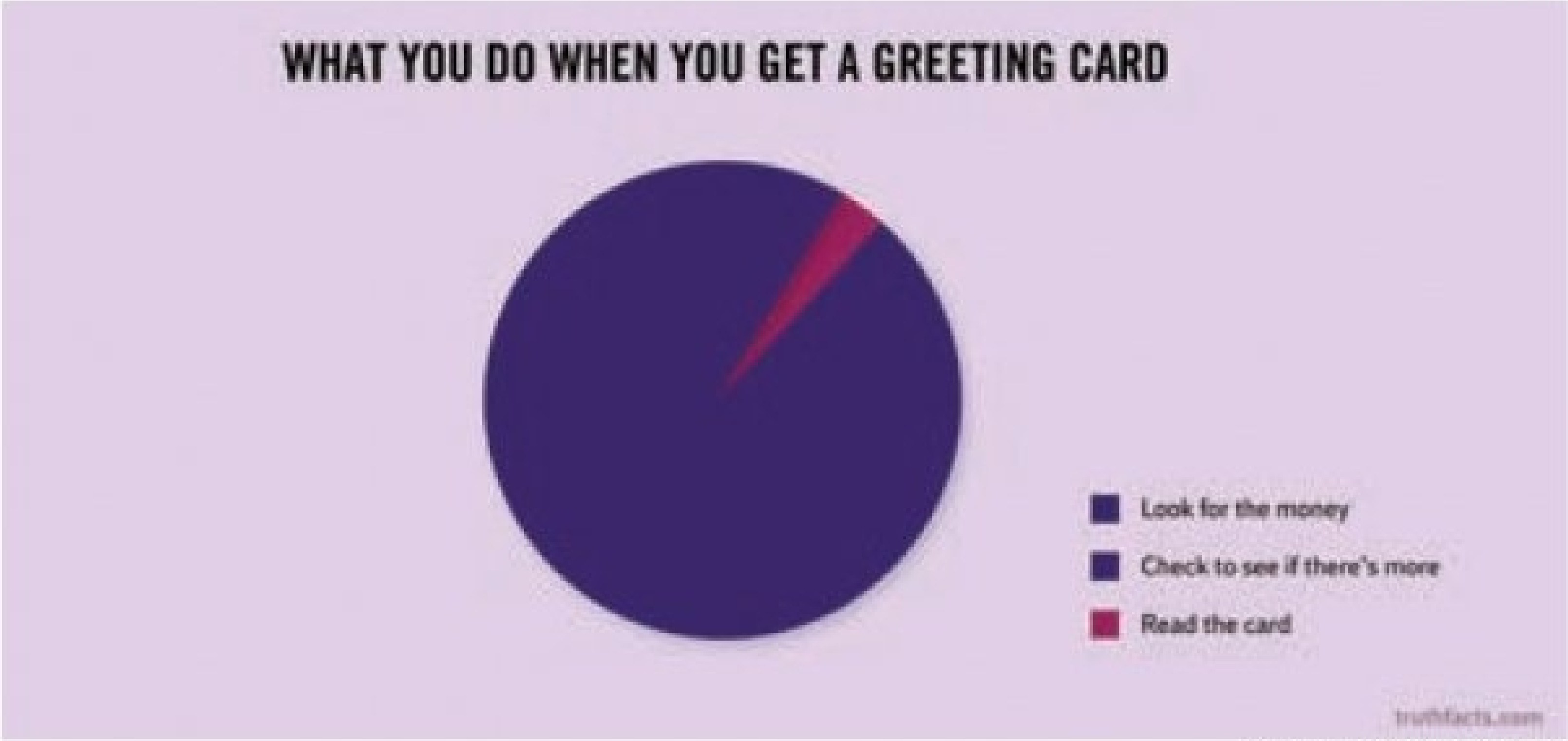

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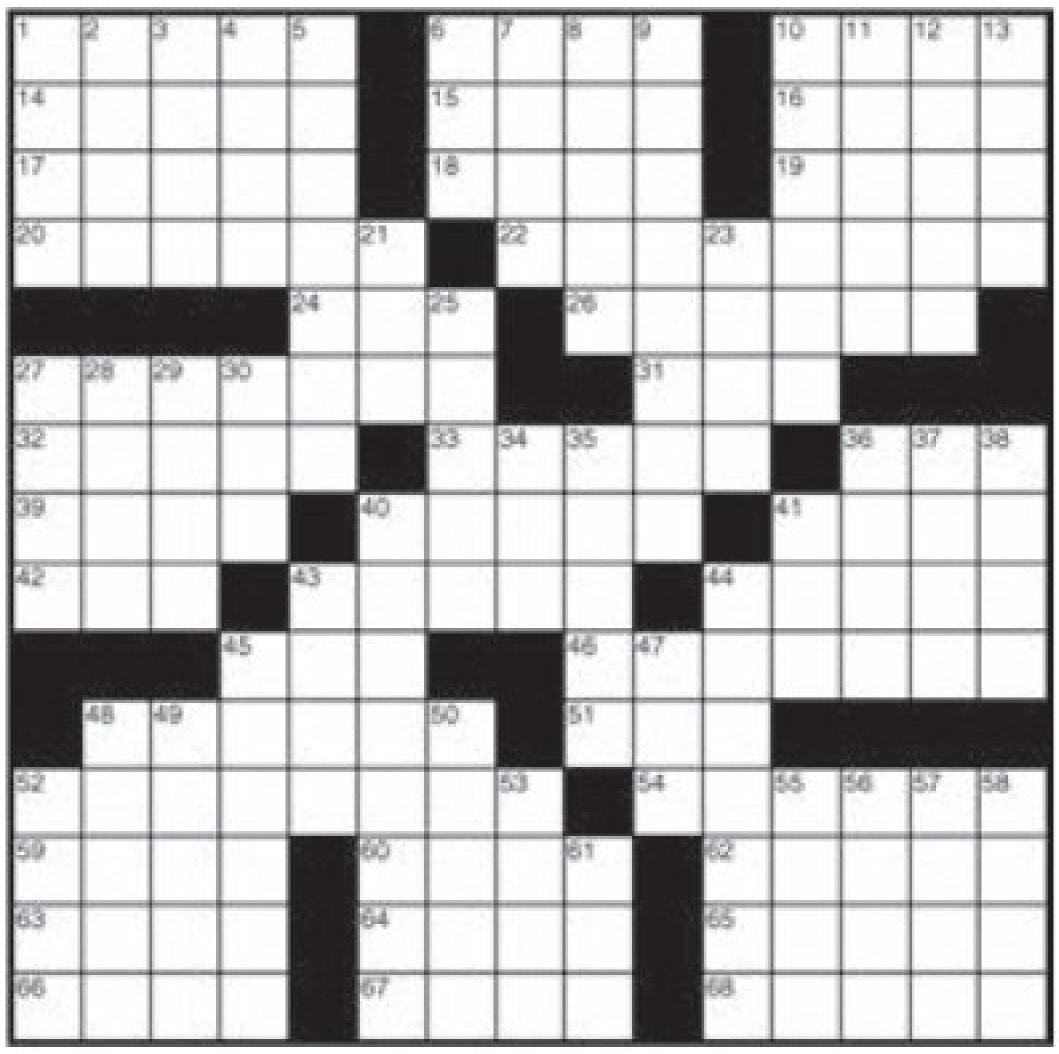
Across
1 Deceived
6 VIII, to Virgil
10 Equal to the task
14 Form a butte
15 Matty of the diamond
16 Eventful periods
17 Unrehearsed (hyph.)
18 Litter's little one
19 Big umbrella
20 Steamboat inventor
22 Incidentally (3 wds.)
24 Louis XIV, e.g.
26 Sandbars
27 Minimally (2 wds.)
31 Lightning by-product
32 Yellowish pink
33 Gregorian —
36 Terrier threat
39 Vanish -- thin air
40 Toothy predator
41 Essayist's pen name
42 Last degree
43 Verse
44 Musician Bela —
45 Sigma follower
46 Most Vassar grads
48 Fireside feeling
51 Dry, as champagne
52 Parson
54 Specters
59 Viking name
60 Henri's aits
62 Dive
63 Tel. or elec.
64 Robin beaks
65 Prefix for "below"
66 Latin I verb
67 Capricorn
68 Purplish flower

Down
1 Fell on — ears
2 Karachi language
3 Gather opinions
4 Fix a manuscript
5 Actress — Kerr
6 Bireme mover
7 Triple-decker sandwich
8 Drama awards
9 Leap ahead with the mind
10 Crete's sea
11 Barroom action
12 Prayer-wheel turners
13 Catch sight of
21 Votes against
23 Catcall
25 Like dandruff
27 Neat as — —
28 Pavilion
29 Strip of wood
30 Green prefix
34 Rye partner
35 Survey findings
36 Campbell of country music
37 Costa —
38 Yard tool
40 Latching
41 Horror-flick street
43 Prow projections
44 Vivid color
45 Flirt
47 Journey stage
48 Flags
49 Writer — Nin
50 Sun, in combos
52 Wry face
53 "Fancy" singer
55 Holds the deed
56 Cushiony
57 Zoomed
58 Galleon need
61 Mach 3 flier

FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, VISIT **metro.us/games**



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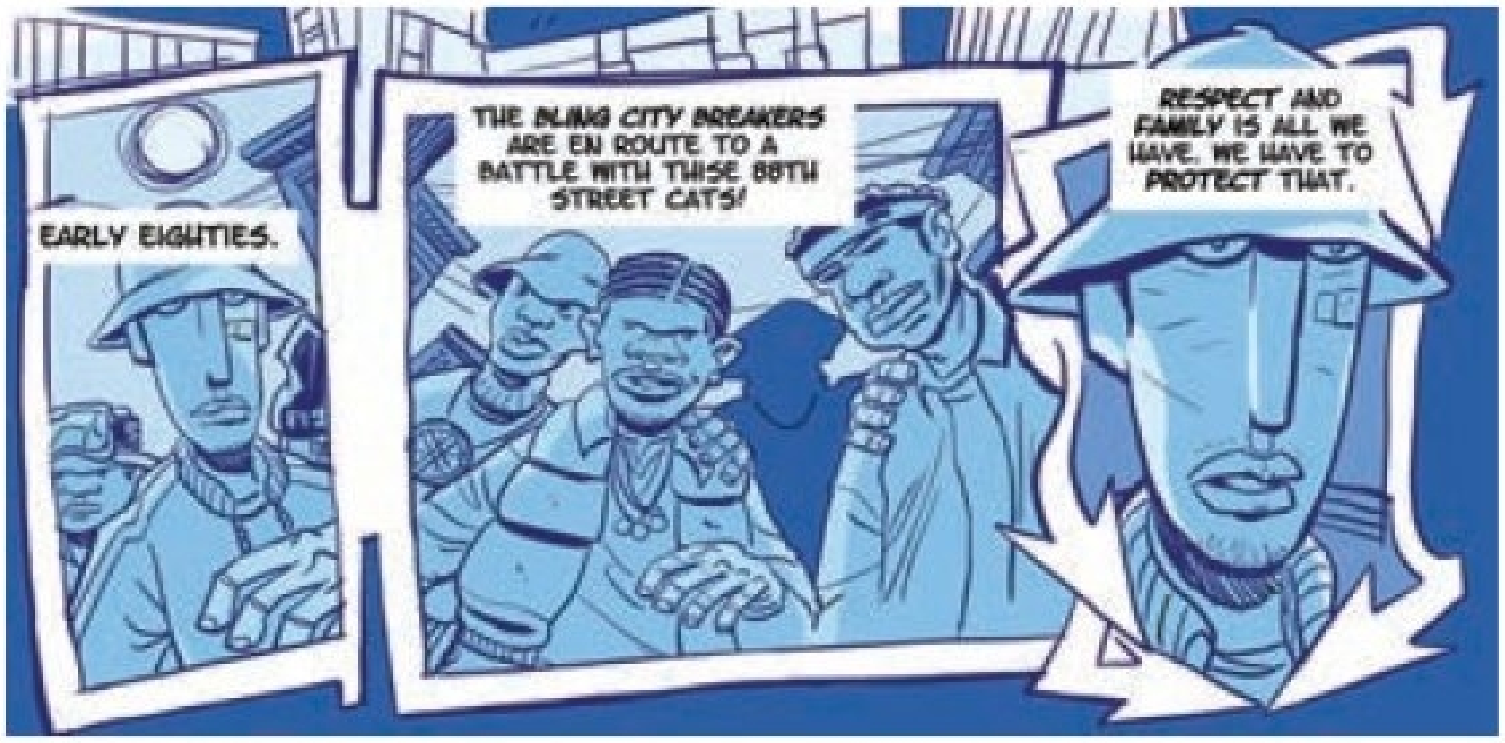
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easy

8							5	6
4			3			1		
1	9		6		8			
	8	6						1
	3	1		7		2	9	
7						3	6	
			5		2		7	9
		8			3			4
6	7							2

hard

			3			6		
7				9			4	3
	2		8			9		
1	9		6			4		
5		7				2		6
		4			9		3	1
		3			8		2	
4	7			1				8
		5			6			

/horoscopes

Aries Focus on your passions. Don't be upset if others don't want to jump in and help you reach your goals. If you follow your gut, you won't go wrong.

Taurus Being strong-willed is a positive trait but being stubborn is not. Pursue what's important without being concerned with what others think about your plans.

Gemini Avoid group situations. Re-examine your personal paperwork and question the motives of someone pressing you for personal information.

Cancer A chance to make a professional move is on the horizon. Consider the possibilities of working from home. A tip will lead to a gain.

Leo Be on the lookout for unanticipated expenses that could alter your financial situation. Look for new ways to save, bring in extra cash or cut corners.

Virgo Make important decisions to suit your needs, not to please others. If you have been too work-oriented, your personal relationships will suffer.

Libra Helping others will be your strength. Your unique manner is appealing, and diplomacy will help you gain popularity and support in what you do today.

Scorpio Even low-cost alterations to your home will have a positive impact. Let the people you live with help with both the planning and the work.

Sagittarius You risk disappointment if you ask others to handle responsibilities. A no-nonsense approach will ensure that things get done the way your want them to be done.

Capricorn Ask a family member for assistance with a personal situation. Take a close look at real estate or investment as a means to grow your wealth.

Aquarius You will have a change of heart due to an outside influence or an incident that left you feeling uncertain. Let go of the past.

Pisces Don't make the mistake of believing that everyone is as truthful as you are. Take a step back from the situation and re-evaluate what's happened. EUGENIA LAST

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This is the reason you are unhappy at work

HOW TO GET AHEAD

And the good news: It's totally fixable. Just follow these three steps.

RAQUEL LANERI
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Here's a fact that will surprise no one who has ever worked in an office: Fifty percent of people are unhappy in their job. Yet the reason why we daydream of a better life while watching cat videos as we count down the seconds till clock-out isn't because we're lazy or because we don't want to do work. It's because most employers aren't allowing us to focus on and utilize our strengths, and we feel devalued because of it.

"Workplaces are really good at inducing stress and anxiety and fear and worry," says workplace well-being expert Michelle McQuaid. "They're not so good in bringing out the best in people."

That's why she's launching the global One-Week Strengths Habit Challenge starting Monday, August 17, to help individuals be more energized, confident and happy at work.

How exactly? Just follow these three steps and you'll be on your way to seriously kicking butt at — and loving — your job.

Identify your strengths

When asked to list their top five strengths, most people freeze. Turns out a lot of us have no idea what we're good at — or even what our best qualities are.

Fortunately, there are lots of strengths-assessment tools that can help — and that you can find free online, such as the VIA Survey (**www.viacharacter.org**).

"It only takes 10 minutes, and it identifies your character strengths — so things like curiosity, humor, kindness, gratitude," McQuaid says. "That's great because while we don't always have control over what we have to do in our jobs, we do generally have a fair amount of choice in how we approach what we have to do. That is often the easiest way to start."

Figure out how you already use your strengths at work

Once you nail down your top strengths, ask yourself how you're already using them on the job.

Bonus

Spending 10 minutes honing your own strengths at work will not only improve your attitude — it might land you a promotion. "Do more of what you do best each day, and the other people around you can see the potential of what you have to offer as you go about your job," says McQuaid. "And in my experience that starts to open different opportunities for you as time goes by."

"Think about the last time you were engaged and energized and enjoying your work," advises McQuaid. "Those are the moments you're using your strengths — that's why we feel good about them.

"It might have been part of a big project you were working on, or it might have been a really small moment — a meeting or something where you walked out thinking, 'Actually that wasn't too bad,'" she explains. "But by looking at those moments you can start to identify, 'So that's how my curiosity is being used in this role,' or, 'That's how I use kindness effectively at work.' And as you start to spot those, it becomes possible to think about how you can do a little bit more of that each day."

Develop a habit

The final step: consciously using that strength. Every. Single. Day. McQuaid says that she's very curious, so years ago, when she was beginning to feel restless in her role as a global brand director at PWC, she decided to utilize her hunger for information by reading one new thing a day when she first got into the office.

"It was just 10 minutes, but after a few days of doing that, I found I was looking forward to getting to work," she says. "A good day for me is when I learn something new," she continues, meaning that suddenly, because of her new habit, every day was a good day.

"Ten minutes is perfect to develop a positive habit, because it's excuse-proof — it's nothing. And you don't need anyone's permission — you don't need to change your job description to do it. You just need to be willing to stick with it."

A camp that teaches 7-year-olds to code

Video games are actually good for kids — provided they're learning how to design them themselves. PROVIDED

At iD Tech Camp at the University of Pennsylvania, the kids throw Frisbees, play icebreakers — oh, and design their own video games.

RACHEL KASHDAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Kids these days — they're not just playing video games; they're making them.

"Right now, we're designing levels and puzzles that are mind-bending," says 13-year-old Vaughn Colestock about his 3D Level Design class at iD Tech Camp at the University of Pennsylvania. "I don't have an Xbox or a PlayStation, so I always wanted to test out if I like video games like my friends do."

ID Tech Camp at UPenn offers programming and game design courses for 7- to 17-year-olds and is one of more than 100 summer camps the company has at colleges around the country. The camps are dedicated to teaching children and young adults the STEM skills they'll need for a future in technology.

"What these kids are doing now are really the skills that will take them to the future jobs," says Matt Torresani, director of the camp at UPenn. "It's not such an analog world anymore; it's tech. These kids get it. They know how to do it, and they're learning it every day."

The camp offers classes in Java — which gives campers programming fundamentals they'll need in the future — as well as mobile and game design. The most popular courses, however, are in "Minecraft," a creative open-ended video game where players build their own structures out of blocks and fight monsters.

"'Minecraft' is completely educational, and it's fascinating to see what these kids can do in this game," says Torresani. "As a public school teacher, I see this vast need for the creativity, and what these kids are doing with 'Minecraft' is creating really cool students."

While many iD Tech alumni have chosen to pursue careers in the STEM field, the camp teaches all kids important skills that will benefit them in whatever career path they choose.

"[They're learning] critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and they're learning how to test through things, trial and error," says Torresani. "We live in a tech-driven world, and it's only becoming more so. … This is just giving them an opportunity to kind of further their skills before they get to that world."

> *"We live in a tech-driven world, and it's only becoming more so. … This is just giving them an opportunity to kind of further their skills before they get to that world."* Matt Torresani

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Is summer making your kids dumber?

Here's how to keep your kids' brains from melting over the break.

TAYLOR ROBINSON
@ metronewyork
letters@metro.us

Summer vacation is a time for swim and play. But all that fun in the sun could be holding students back when it comes time to hit the books again.

In just those few months off, students lose a lot of the information they learned during the school year. Worse, "summer brain drain" is the reason why teachers have to review old lessons with students, wasting time and delaying progress.

So what can parents do about it? We asked Peter Riddle, cognitive expert and co-founder of Empowered Learning Transformation Centers, for four easy ways to keep kids' minds sharp during the summer. (Better get started — you only have a month!)

Make sure they complete their school's reading list

This seems obvious, but "roughly 25 percent of kids read nothing over the summer," says Riddle. That doesn't account for the students who "skim" their assignments at the last minute. Not reading books is "where the real brain drain comes in," Riddle says.

Find 30-minute daily lessons on the Web

When it comes to the Internet, we know two things for certain: one, it has a wealth of information, and two, children and teens love to use it. So why not use it to learn?

"If you can chunk out little things for your kids to watch every day on the Internet, it will serve their need to be [online]. And you can get something productive out of it because they're going to get there anyway," Riddle says. He recommends going on academy or learning sites that provide scores and feedback for lessons as well as trying less structured but no less engaging "brain teaser" apps.

Keep them up to date on the news

Adults shouldn't be the only ones reading the paper. "Any kid that's above the sixth grade should be reading the newspaper or the online headlines so they're familiar with current events," Riddle says. Staying informed helps these budding adults not only make connections with what they learn in social studies, but it also helps them form their own opinions and thoughts about the world around them. This produces better, more engaged students as well as more responsible global citizens.

Keep your kids' brains active, even on lazy summer days. IPHOTO

Treat everyday activities as learning opportunities

Shopping in the supermarket or slicing food into fractions while cooking can show kids how to apply math and other academic concepts in the real world. "If you can physically show them [how math or science works] ... it'll have more meaning because it's concrete," says Riddle.

Visiting various kinds of museums (such as science, history and art) also helps kids associate learning with fun. Also recommended? Playing games. "There are all types of games that you can play with your kids that have to do with math or history or just general information," he says. Riddle likes Pictionary, Trivial Pursuit and even Monopoly, which requires counting and budgeting finances.

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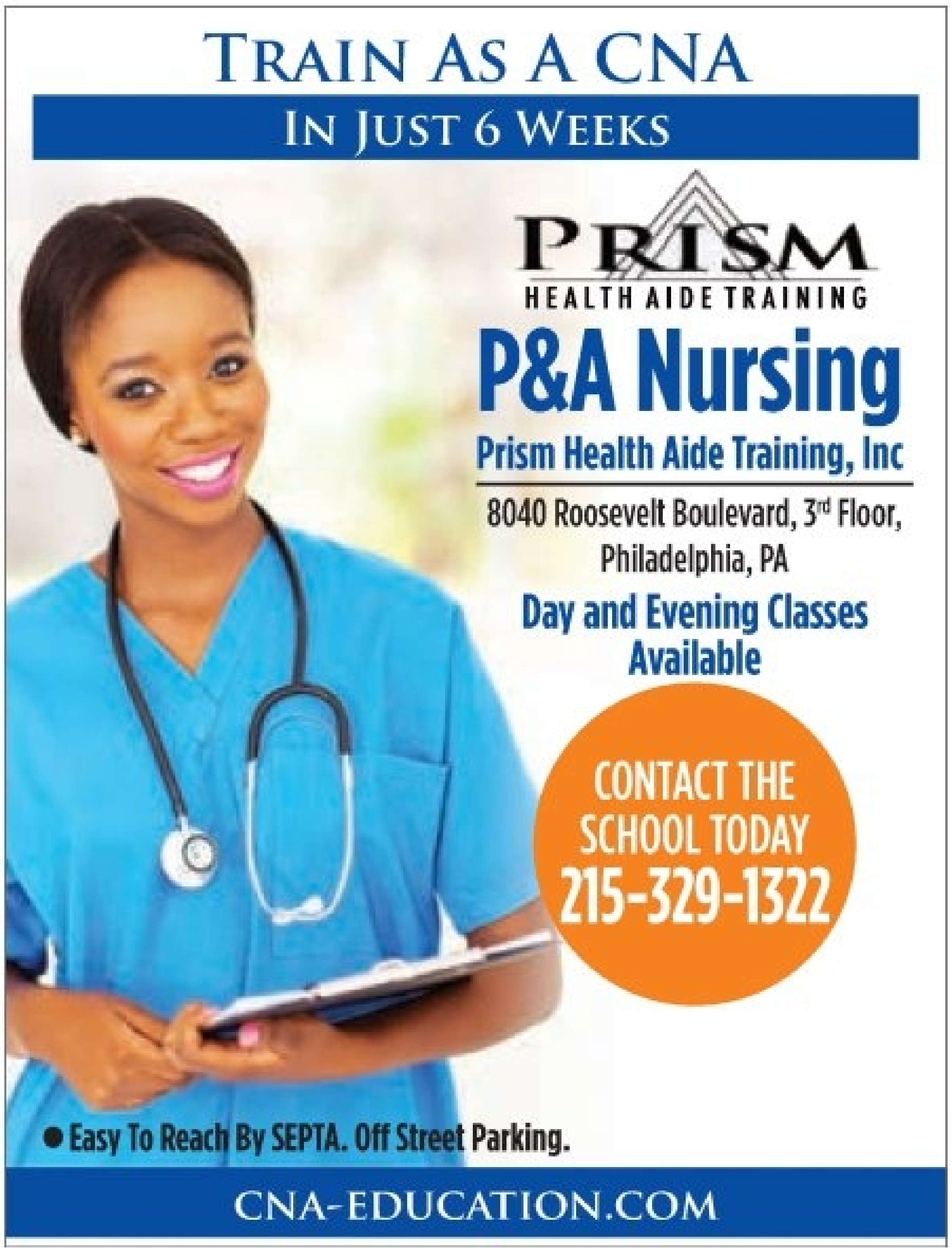

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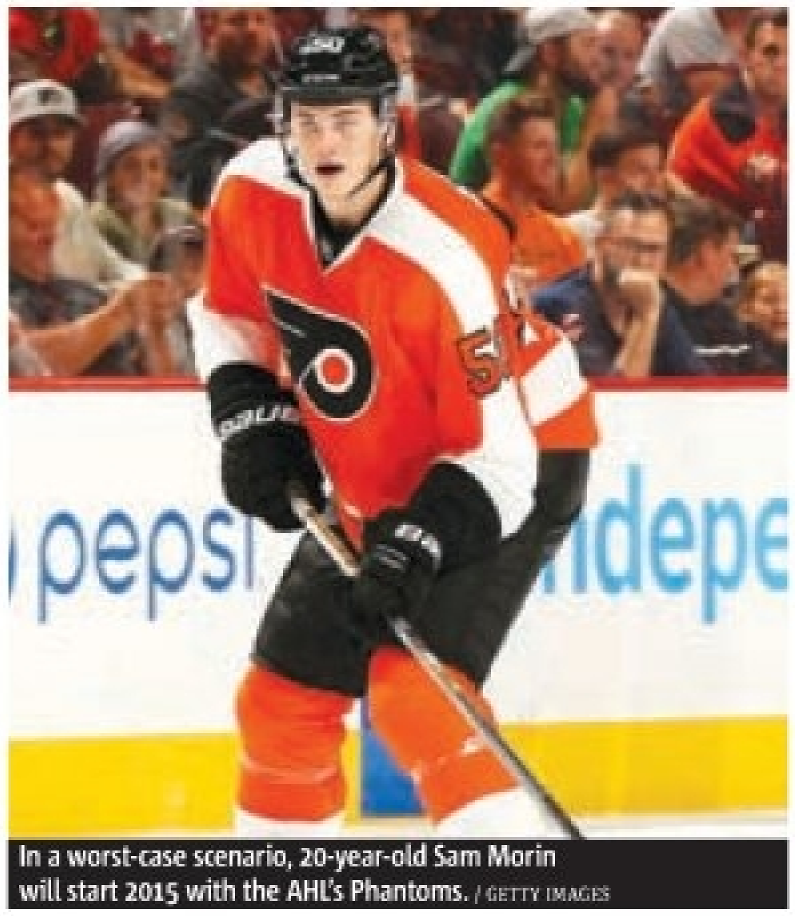
Flyers’ defenseman Morin hopes to crack NHL lineup

NHL. Sam Morin is getting closer and closer to breaking out and realizing his NHL dream.


In a worst-case scenario, 20-year-old Sam Morin will start 2015 with the AHL’s Phantoms. / GETTY IMAGES

Sam Morin nearly made the Flyers roster out training camp last year. The 20-year-old defenseman and 2013 first-round pick impressed the team’s brass with his consistent play and presence during practices and exhibition games but ended up as one of the final cuts.

Rather than suiting up for the Flyers, he returned to his junior team for the third straight year. In 54 regular-season games with the Rimouski Oceanic of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, the 6-foot-7 prospect scored seven goals, had 24 assists and was a plus-12 — and added eight points in 11 playoff games. He missed five weeks of the season with a broken jaw after getting hit with a puck.

He also won a gold medal playing for Canada at the World Juniors.

Known for using his physical style of play as well as his offensive abilities, especially a nasty shot from the point, Morin had an excellent sophomore season. Now, he hopes to take the next step in his career this fall and make the roster.

“All the time my goal is to make the Flyers,” Morin said last month during the organization’s Development Camp. “I am trying to impress all the time. I am going to keep working hard and hopefully make it a hard decision for them again.”

He is up against some long odds to break camp with the parent club, though. There is a log jam at the position as the Flyers head into camp, which starts on Sept. 17.

They have eight defensemen signed to one-way contracts in front of him and a handful of highly-touted prospects, including this year’s first-round pick Ivan Provorov, who is also in the mix.

While he has high expectations, Morin won’t be devastated with falling short of his ultimate goal.

“I am ready to play for the Phantoms if I don’t make the Flyers,” Morin said. “I think that would be really exciting to be playing professional hockey after playing in juniors the last two years. I want to just keep playing and getting better. Playing for the Phantoms means I am also that much closer to maybe playing for the Flyers one day.”

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3 SPORTS

Loss of a Legend

Gifford dies at age 84

Familiar to Eagles fans both from his days as a rival Giant and in the broadcast booth for Monday Night Football, the NFL lost a legend Sunday when Frank Gifford died suddenly in his home of natural causes. He won an NFL championship with New York in 1956.

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3 Sixers to watch as

NBA. The 76ers remain under the radar this summer but do have several bright spots to look forward to as the season approaches.

Since there's quite a bit of down time before training camp officially begins, let's squeeze in some Sixers chat.

While most of the city is focused on Chip Kelly, Sam Bradford, Jimmy Rollins, Chase Utley and Aaron Nola, basketball-starved fans haven't had much to talk about.

Joel Embiid is out for a second straight season. That's the bad news.

But the summer has provided the Sixers with some positives. Here are three things the Sixers' fan base can look forward to in 2015-16 based on results from the summer:

ANDY JASNER
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1 Jahlil Okafor

When D'Angelo Russell was plucked by the Los Angeles Lakers with the No. 2 overall pick in the NBA Draft, it allowed Okafor to slip to the Sixers. What a blessing. Especially with Embiid's injury situation. The 6-foot-11 big man won a national championship as a freshman at Duke and carried that momentum into the Summer League with the Sixers. While Okafor was far from perfect, he showed incredible poise and footwork in the low post. Free throw shooting is still an issue, but that can be improved. The same goes for conditioning. This much was obvious: Okafor is ready for the NBA and he'll help the Sixers immediately. Once the Sixers begin to put more quality players around Okafor, the better he'll become in the long run. It was the right pick for this team and judging from a small sample in the Summer League, Okafor has all the skills to be ultra-successful.

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Jahlil Okafor is a top candidate to be the NBA's 2015 Rookie of the year. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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0605 Natasha Pindle • 2231 Jacquline Giddings • 2502 Scott William • 3307 Jean Murphy • 3403 Anthony Burno
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#2130 - Casey Brown; #2149 - Fatima Mullins; #2425 - Juanita Figueroa;
#2504 - Shante Allen; #2508 - George Clark; #2514 - Wayne Williams;
#2608 - Preston Woodburn; #2610 - Eldred Stubbs Jr.; #3603 - Ryann Harris
#0120 - Alesia Byrd-Rich; #0124 - Preston Malone-Sutton; #1144 - Bill Knox

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#2523-Kiberly Nolsette • #3502-Matthew Spencer • #1611-Andrea Erickson

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2122 Erin McGrath • 2606 Diane Demar

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2104 Robert Ramos, 2323 Tracy A Tilli, 2704 Marnishia Hampton,
3101 Yumetta Beysolow, 4210 Jesse J Bowen

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summer winds down

Jerami Grant

Can Grant play himself into a starting role?

The young forward from Syracuse continued to prove his mettle with a solid showing in Salt Lake City. He attacked the basket offensively, rebounded well, played strong defense and did a great job of running the court. Grant knocked down only 2-of-10 shots from 3-point territory, but his offensive game flourished from inside the arc. Grant (whose brother was taken in the first round of June's draft) looked like such an improved player in virtually every aspect. He'll have plenty of chances to take another step forward for the Sixers this season on a team that is short on wingmen and even shorter on experienced guards.

Scottie Wilbekin

WILBEKIN COULD FIND NEW LIFE WITH THE 76ERS AFTER AN IMPRESSIVE SHOWING DURING NBA SUMMER LEAGUE.

The former University of Florida guard played extremely well for the Sixers in Las Vegas and was reportedly rewarded with a four-year deal and two years partially guaranteed. Wilbekin scored 26 points in one game and consistently scored from long distance. He was the Defensive Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player for Cairns Taipans of Australia's National Basketball League last year. Don't confuse Wilbekin with the likes of Chris Paul or Stephen Curry. But Wilbekin could turn out to be a nice role player for the Sixers.

Public Auction

12 E Oregon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19148 on August 26, 2015 @ 11:15 AM

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1106 Fisher, Marcia • 1736 GALLESE, NICOLE • 2182 HEYL, MICHAEL JAMES
1524 KITCHNER, BRANDON • 2420 Lindsey, Ronald A • 2116 Mastrando, Joseph
1552 Schmidt, Matthew • 1122 SHAW, HOLLY L • 1527 Karen M Stemmel

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1035 Major, Gladys • 1090 Morales, Leonardo • 1005 PELMONT, PIERRE • 5214 Pinkett, George • 5086 Strother, Keith
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Jeanille McGhee R609
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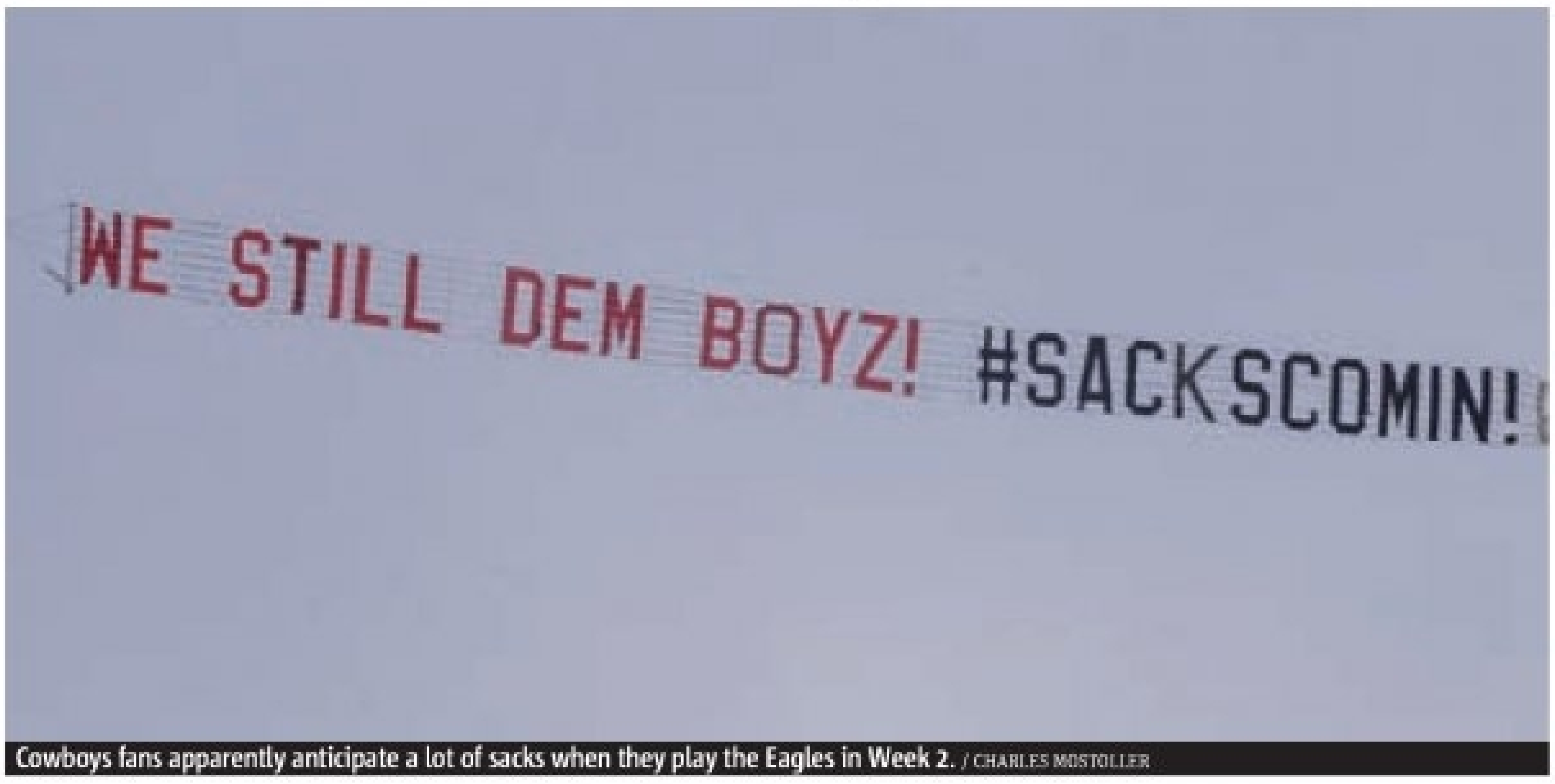
Eagles not concerned with Cowboys banner



Cowboys fans apparently anticipate a lot of sacks when they play the Eagles in Week 2. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

NFL. Dallas defensive end Greg Hardy helped pay for the playful jab at Eagles fans and players.

The Cowboys, their fans and defensive lineman Greg Hardy wanted to stir the pot Sunday when the often controversial player helped pay for a plane to fly over Lincoln Financial Field during Eagles practice pulling a banner that said "WE STILL DEM BOYZ! #SACKSCOMIN!"

Though greeted with a deafening boo from more than 43,000 fans at the Birds' final open practice, the players on the field simply chuckled. Well, some of them did. Others briefly looked toward the sky and then quickly focused on starting practice.

Injury woes

Some key defensive players are battling injuries for the Eagles:

- Kiko Alonso sat out Sunday's practice as he recovers from a concussion. "Kiko's doing great," Billy Davis said. "He won't miss a beat.
- JaCorey Shephard was carted off the field after being knocked down following a Darren Sproles catch. His prognosis is not yet known as of Sunday afternoon.

"It's no big deal," DeMeco Ryans, a veteran and Eagles clubhouse leader said. "We're not concerned about them but it seems like they're concerned about us."

The Eagles and Cowboys don't meet until Week 2 of the regular season — more than an entire month away — and Jordan Matthews told reporters he was simply "focused on the next practice," not the 4:25 p.m. game in Philly on September 20.

"He spent money on that?" Matthews asked when he was prompted for a response. "I am saving my money. That's whatever, I don't even think 'bout that kind of stuff."

The banner was paid for through a GoFundMe page, to which Hardy decided to contribute $300. Originally slated to read "We got the division," the Hardy contribution came with a suggestion and the banner was eventually changed to reflect his message.

Quoted

"Kinda stupid to me."

Eagles tackle Lane Johnson on the Cowboys' fans banner that flew over practice.

The full impact of the banner may have been compromised when the plane flew overhead during the National Anthem. Once the "Star-Spangled Banner" was completed the boos echoed as the plane made a half-dozen passes before disappearing into the sky.

Jets fans recently pulled off a similar stunt, flying a banner over Patriots camp that read "Cheaters look up."

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NFL. Without any additions, the Eagles' D-line is getting better

The addition of Brad Jones, who can play both linebacking positions, will certainly help the defensive line. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

The Eagles have pretty much a completely new secondary (save for Malcolm Jenkins) as the 2015 season approaches.

And their linebacking corps were boosted by the addition of Kiko Alonso, Brad Jones and new draftee Jordan Hicks this offseason.

But the defensive line is the same as it was last year, with the exception of Trent Cole's departure.

And that consistency is a good thing.

"The starters are making big steps in the third year in the system," Eagles defensive coordinator Billy Davis said, noting that the D-line truly is wearing out the sleds in their positional drills in training camp." I am anxious to see them Sunday against the Colts."

Sunday, of course, is a big marking stick in the Eagles' trek to prepare for the season, as they will see live competition for the first time and face an opposition with no restrictions.

Fletcher Cox, Vinny Curry and Cedric Thornton return after each posted career years on the defensive line — a unit that (combined with the rest of the defense) collected 49 sacks, second most in the NFL in 2014.

And even without adding anyone this offseason, and losing Cole to the Colts, the line could be even better in 2015, as Taylor Hart enters his second NFL campaign as a completely revitalized player.

"Taylor has really reshaped his body," Davis said. "He is a solid run defender; he's got enough of a pass rush where he kind of sneaks up on you."

With all their speed and technique at defensive end, don't forget the big stopgap in the middle: Bennie Logan.

"Bennie's is a big part of our defense," Davis said. "He's a steady payer. From a nose guard position from a 3-4 you are really looking for a stout run-defender. But the bonus is when they can also be a pass rusher."

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